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All training centres above offer **IPAF/PASMA/CPCS** or other approved and audited training courses. European directives and most national regulations require that staff are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate. If you wish to become a sponsor of the Training & Safety page opposite by advertising, contact us on info@vertikal.net

Charities fund training

The Lighthouse Club charity and the Construction Youth Trust are funding The Lighthouse Learner Project to offer 20 disadvantaged young people access to training and employment opportunities in the construction industry. The nine day course will lead to an OCN London accredited Level 1 Award in 'Health and Safety in a Construction Environment' in preparation for a CSCS card. Lighthouse chief executive Bill Hill said: "We are delighted to provide this funding and work with Construction Youth Trust. As with everything we do, we can only do it with the support of our industry and so I would like to say a special thank you to those who made sure that our learners are safely kitted out with PPE."



Manitowoc expands Americas training

Manitowoc has expanded its Spanish language Crane Care training programmes in Central America and the Caribbean. Trainees previously had to travel to the USA with classes in English. Manitowoc now offers training courses in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Manitowoc Crane Care's director of customer service Cuauhtemoc Flores said: "When Manitowoc's Crane Care training programme was only offered in the US, we had two barriers - the high costs for dealers to send their technicians and the language. These technicians are now more prepared and confident to provide customer assistance."



Manitowoc Crane Care training in Central America

£7,500k for scaffold fall

St. Albans Scaffolding of the UK, has been fined £5,500 plus costs of £442, while director Simon Bruce was fined £915 plus costs of £443 after an employee fell while erecting a scaffold.

The man lost his balance while climbing a 7.6 metre ladder carrying a 4.8 metre scaffold pole weighing 20kg. He fell just over five metres to the ground, and required surgery after suffering multiple fractures to his right leg and ankle. An investigation found both the company and director failed to ensure that he was trained to the required competence to install scaffolding, and was not adequately supervised.

HSE inspector Rauf Ahmed said: "The director knew the worker had not received the appropriate training to carry out the safe installation of the scaffolding and he put him at risk by allowing unsupervised work to continue."

Boom crush fatality costs £145k

UK contractor Pyeroy has been fined £130,000 plus more than £14,000 costs following a fatal crushing incident with a boom lift. The incident occurred in October 2013 at the Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth while Keith Stevens was working from the platform of an articulated boom lift at a height of around 14 metres.

He was helping remove temporary plastic roofing above the submarine HMS Conqueror, when he slumped over the machine's controls and was trapped against a roof beam. None of his colleagues below had been trained on how to operate the boom lift or its emergency descent procedure, and the site supervisor was away. The men below climbed up the structure to try and rescue him, but it took at least 20 minutes before they were able to relieve the pressure on Stevens, however it was too late. He died of an enlarged heart which caused sudden cardiac arrhythmia. The court found that there was a lack of planning, including an absence of a rescue plan in the case of an operator becoming incapacitated.

A statement from the company said: "We express our sincerest apologies. The loss of Keith has had a massive lasting impact on the business and everyone who knew him. We have lost a valued employee, colleague and friend. A civil claim has been settled in full. The company immediately drew up rules to change its procedures, including making sure a trained operator was always on the ground when a cherry picker was working. All crane and work at height operations now have their own rescue plans."

HSE inspector Helena Allum said: "If Pyeroy had trained other employees to use the platform in emergency situations, Mr Stevens would have been lowered to the ground more swiftly. This case highlights the need for duty holders to properly plan all work at height beforehand, including emergency planning and rescue situations."

Who trained him then?



Sent in by a reader, an adult and three children in the platform of a boom lift, with two more youngsters suspended below. To add to the risk the boom is on the back of a trailer towed by a dump truck.