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Falls from height at record low, but work still to be done

Like many other organisations in the work at height sector, PASMA, the international association for the mobile access tower industry, has welcomed the reduction in the number of falls from height in the UK as reported in the latest HSE statistics.

However, while falls from height have declined from 37 to 25, that is still an average of over two fatalities a month and there remains an enormous amount of work to be done. There can be no complacency, the focus must be on building a positive, proactive safety culture, says PASMA.

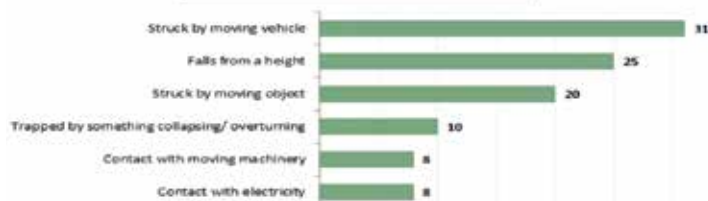
Significantly, at 25, falls from height are second only to 'struck by moving vehicle' in the HSE's league table, representing 18 per cent of the total number of fatalities by accident type.

PASMA managing director Peter Bennett said: "The downward trend is obviously encouraging, but behind the numbers are families, friends and colleagues whose lives will never be the same again."

Chairman Gillian Rutter added: "Naturally, the news is welcomed by PASMA and its members, but 25 deaths is 25 too many. No one can afford to rest on their laurels."

Advancing standards and best practice, PASMA promotes the safe use of mobile access towers and champions height safety in general through its active involvement in the work of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and its support for initiatives such as Working Well at Height.

Main kinds of fatal accident for workers



2017 Annual Review published

Launched at the recent PASMA Members' Conference Meeting in Warwickshire, the 2017 PASMA Annual Review is now available to download. The new style, 20 page publication includes a new section entitled 'Engagement' explaining how PASMA, together with other organisations, is a member of three Health and Safety Executive (HSE) groups: CONIAC - the Construction Industry Advisory Committee, SBTA - the Small Business Trade Association Forum and WWT - Working Well Together.



CONIAC advises the HSE on the protection of people at work - and others - from hazards to health and safety within the building, civil engineering and engineering construction industry.

SBTA exists to ensure that the HSE hears the concerns of small businesses and consults small business on new initiatives and proposed changes in health and safety law.

WWT, a joint industry/HSE initiative, operates Safety and Health Awareness Days, targeted at Small to Medium Enterprises and Sole Traders with the aim of educating people on risks and offering practical solutions. PASMA is a long time supporter of these events, together with colleagues in the Access Industry Forum.

Other sections in the review include: Chairman's Welcome, Managing Director's Report, Highlights at a Glance, From the Committees, Standards Review, PASMA Overseas, Events, Campaigns and Marketing, Tech Topics, Courses and Products, and a complete list of PASMA members.



Download the Review at www.pasma.co.uk/about

News in brief

London Work at Height Seminar:

Alongside other member organisations of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), PASMA was a major contributor to this event hosted by the City of London Corporation at The Guildhall. A combination of formal presentations and practical presentations, the event attracted a capacity audience of health and safety professionals from across the UK.

Tower Safety Week 2017:

Plans for this year's event, which will run from the 13th to the 17th November, are already well advanced. As in previous years, Tower Safety Week will promote height safety, develop industry knowledge and skills, and connect with a wide range of tower using industries. Commenting on last year's event, Graham Arundell, managing director of Hire Association Europe (HAE) said: "Training and skills are essential messages communicated to everyone through this excellent campaign which promotes safe access when working at height. PASMA put in a tremendous effort to keep people safe."



Selfie' winner from 2016 Tower Week

Middle East Conference 2018:

Now becoming an established highlight in the PASMA calendar, the 2018 conference will take place at the Marriott Hotel Al Forsan in Abu Dhabi on 14th March. Further details will be announced shortly. More information at www.pasma.ae



2018 Middle East Conference

Mission statement:

Expect to see more of PASMA's mission statement in the weeks and months ahead: 'PASMA is the organisation that knows mobile towers and cares about the people who use them'. It will shortly start to feature in a wide range of both member and industry communications.



For details of PASMA standards, guidance and training, including free PocketCards and posters, visit: www.pasma.co.uk