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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

Unloading incident costs \$542,000

New Zealand construction company Supermac Group has been fined \$304,750 plus costs of \$138,000 and \$100,000 of reparations, after an employee was seriously injured when he was ejected from a boom lift that he had not been trained to operate.

In May 2016 the man was unloading the boom lift from a trailer at a construction site in Kerikeri, northern New Zealand, when it slipped off the ramps, catapulting him into the air - he was not wearing a harness and lanyard at the time. His injuries have left him permanently paralysed from the neck down. He received the \$100,000 of compensation directly from the company.

New training document from Genie

Genie has launched a new document to train people on the safe operation of aerial work platforms. Entitled 'Updated Training Requirements for Safe Use and Operation of MEWPs in North America', it was unveiled during OSHA's Safe and Sound Week.

Genie senior training manager Scott Owyen said: "The standards have always identified the responsibilities for all entities involved with the operation of aerial lifts - manufacturer, dealer, owner, user and operator. However, the updated standards are placing a huge emphasis on the responsibilities of the user. It is important to understand the implications of that because all of the entities outlined above, with the possible exception of the operator, will fall under the user category at some point in time."



Genie training taking place

Crane employee settles

Robert Keane, 40, an ex employee of UK based Baldwins Crane Hire has been awarded substantial damages following an injury in October 2014. He was helping lower the jib on a 500 tonne crane due to high winds at a Wates Living Space site in Newcastle when a cable failed. He suffered severe bruising and cuts, along with a fractured wrist, but believed that he had escaped serious injury.

However, on returning to work, his pains became worse and he struggled with basic tasks such as walking up stairs. The pain continued to increase and became so intense that a year later he became unable to work and was confined to a wheelchair.

He was diagnosed as suffering from chronic regional pain syndrome. A legal case was scheduled, but damages were agreed between the two parties at a joint settlement meeting. The amount awarded has not been disclosed.



Robert Keane

Work at height planning failures cost £147,000

Two UK companies have been fined after putting employees at risk of falling whilst accessing a roof to repair pipework. Kingswinford Engineering was fined £18,000 plus costs of £9,000, while James Durrans & Sons was fined £100,000 plus costs of £20,000.

In April 2016 Kingswinford was hired to repair a section of pipework on the roof of a warehouse owned by James Durrans & Sons' in Bilston. The contractors had to climb onto the roof from a basket lifted by a forklift which was around a metre short of the roof, there was also a gap between the basket and the wall/roof. The roof was slippery and wet, with no fall protection barriers in place. An investigation identified failings on how access to the roof was planned, managed and monitored, and that neither company had undertaken a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, nor agreed a safe system of work for the job. Instead each had assumed that the other had done it.

Safety inspection leads to £28k of fines

UK based STS Constructions has been fined £26,666 plus costs of £1,255 for failing to comply with work at height regulations.

In May 2018 an inspection at the company's location in Hounslow, West London, uncovered a number of work at height issues, including unprotected edges and a floor that was being removed by a handheld breaker whilst people were standing on it, with no measures in place to prevent them falling if the floor collapsed. The investigation also found risk assessment identified measures that needed to be implemented.



The unprotected edges at the site

Who trained him then?

A member of our team spotted two men working on a shop façade in London, with no care for their safety while working at heights of up to five metres. Falls from these heights can result in some of the worst injuries, and all it required was a ladder suited to the job, and/or a simple scaffold tower, or even a low level powered platform.

