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BT charged £93,000 for putting public at risk

British Telecom (BT) has been fined £90,000 plus costs of £3,394 by Transport for London for putting the public at risk during street works at Bishopsgate, London, UK in August last year. The company failed to properly sign and guard the work area and also used the wrong traffic management methods. Despite repeated demands by Transport for London, BT also failed to take actions to improve the situation.

Transport for London director of network management Glynn Barton said: "We have prosecuted BT for streetworks offences 47 times since 2010 and they still continue to breach the rules. We are working with utility companies, including BT, to ensure that roadworks are carried out safely in the future, with minimal disruption to road users."

CIS moves to bigger premises

Crane Industry Services (CIS) has relocated to a larger training centre in Carrollton, Georgia, USA. The 826 square metre facility features multiple training rooms, an NCCER testing centre, a simulation room, land for crane training and two warehouses for hands-on training. Previously the 'Centered on Safety Training Center' was located on the West Georgia Technical College campus.

Chief executive Debbie Dickinson said: "Our partnership with West Georgia Technical College continues, but this new facility allows us the space to now offer skills training in welding, electrical, millwright and carpentry, as well as rigging and crane operation."



The new CIS training centre

Engineer hit for £165,000 for fall

An aircraft engineering company based at London Stansted Airport, UK has been fined £160,000 plus costs of £5,492.90 after two men suffered broken bones when the platforms they were working on were knocked over. The two men were carrying out checks to each side of the tail of an aircraft in June 2015, when another employee accidentally closed the wrong circuit breaker, opening the plane's airbrake, knocking over both platforms. The men fell from three and 4.5 metres. One suffered injuries to his pelvis, back, ribs, elbow and lung, whilst the second suffered a broken wrist and a chipped a bone on his spine.

HSE inspector Tania van Rixtel said: "Our investigation found the incident could have been avoided had adequate monitoring been taking place. Aircraft maintenance companies are reminded that not all risks are covered by the Aircraft Maintenance Manual and additional measures need to be introduced."

Ladder fall costs £851,000

H.P.A.S, trading as Safestyle UK, has been fined £850,000 plus costs of £1,083 after a window installer fell three metres from an unsecured ladder, breaking his knee cap. The accident happened last year in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, when the man was attempting to install a bedroom window on the first floor of a property.

HSE inspector Stuart Whitesmith said: "This incident could easily have been prevented had the company implemented reasonably practicable precautions. Such precautions include having effective and enforced safe systems of work, whereby windows are installed internally where possible, or by using suitable access solutions which provide edge protection, and having a formal system in place to ensure works are appropriately supervised."

Manitowoc opens Brazilian training centre

Manitowoc has opened a new Crane Care training centre in Santana de Parnaíba, São Paulo, Brazil. The new centre is equipped with modern simulators, helping technicians to practice a wide range of actions on the different operational systems found in crane models in use in South and Central America, such as EPIC, Canbus and Manitowoc's own Crane Control System (CCS). Sessions are available in Portuguese, Spanish and English.

Training manager Keith Opperman said: "Since it is not possible to bring the simulators to our customers' facilities, we have to use cranes provided by them on local training classes. But it is not an ideal situation because the owners have to take a crane off the job for use in the training programme, and they lose money for every day that the cranes are not working. The new training centre eliminates this cost while removing the risk of damage to the cranes."

Vice president of sales for South America Cristian Galaz added: "This new training centre facilitates the logistics to train more people across the region, São Paulo, provides much easier access than Passo Fundo, south of Brazil, where the former training centre used to be located."



Training taking place at the new centre

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Ringwood, Dorset, UK, a man working on the roof of a building with no attempt at fall protection, even though the building is next door to an access rental company! In addition, the ladder placement provides further risk.

