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Cause for alarm

PASMA has raised serious concerns over the latest statistics for work related fatalities. "These figures are a wakeup call," said PASMA. At 144* the HSE's annual figures for work related fatal injuries for 2017/2018 represent an increase of nine fatalities over 2016/17, despite an overall, long-term reduction in the number of fatalities since 1981.

Of the 144, falls from height remained the single biggest cause of fatalities, accounting for 35 - almost 25 percent - of the total. Next came 'struck by a moving vehicle' at 26 or 18 percent, followed by 'struck by a moving object' at 23 or 16 percent.

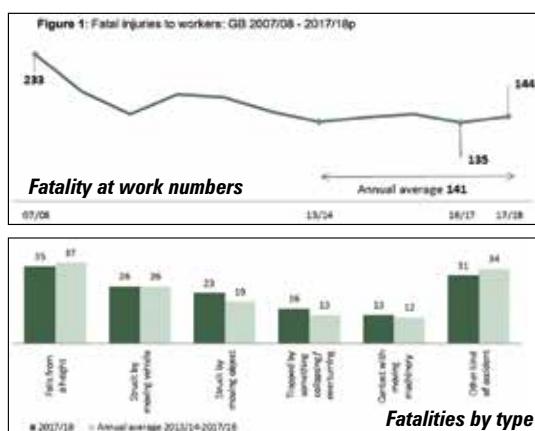
PASMA chairman, Gillian Rutter said: "Everyone involved in the work at height sector will be disappointed and concerned by these figures. They reinforce the need for two things. First, the unrelenting promotion of safety, standards and best practice. Second, the need to seek out and introduce new initiatives."

Two such recent initiatives are the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Working at Height and the No Falls Foundation. Instigated by PASMA and supported by the Access Industry Forum (AIF), the APPG launched its first official inquiry into the number of serious injuries and fatalities resulting from falls from height and falling objects in the workplace last year. It received over 60 evidence submissions and held its first oral session on 28th March 2018. A report, with recommendations, is currently in the course of preparation and is expected to be published in the Autumn.

The No Falls Foundation is the first and only UK based charity dedicated exclusively to the work at height sector. Supported by the AIF and others, its aim is to prevent falls from height and to help people affected by the life changing consequences of a fall. It has three principal objectives: Preventing falls, researching the causes of falls and providing support.

"These initiatives will, over time, add considerably to the resources available to help keep people safe when working at height. It's only by constantly advancing the height safety agenda that we will make a significant impact on these alarming statistics. These are people, not numbers," added Rutter.

*Based on provisional figures for 2017/2018 issued by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 4 July 2018.



Body of knowledge



As PASMA grows, so does the need to ensure that all its guidance and information is up to date and consistent, wherever it is delivered. For example, the Code of Practice, training courses, websites and App. The association has therefore decided to develop the 'PASMA Body of Knowledge', a single repository for the technical data that will drive all the association's information, guidance, and document content going forward. It will speed and simplify the development and revision of training materials and courses.

2018 Annual Review

The 2018 Annual Review is now available online to download. The 24 page document includes:

A report by the association's chairman, Gillian Rutter, a review of the last 12 months by managing director, Peter Bennett, updates from the committees, the latest developments in standards and guidance, the work of PASMA overseas, how the association is engaging with organisations such as IIRSM, RoSPA and HAE, developments in IT technology, the work of the marketing and communications department, a look back over Tower Week 2017, plus details of the All Party Parliamentary Group and No Falls Foundation.

Rutter's introduction to the review says: "It has been an honour to serve as PASMA's first female chairman over the last 12 months. It's been a pleasure to chair a forward thinking organisation where knowledge and experience are valued above all else.

Looking to the future, as PASMA grows in strength and recognition, I urge every member to engage with the association to share and exchange knowledge, experience and expertise."



Diary dates

As a leading member of the Access Industry Forum (AIF), PASMA will be represented at the following events:

- Safety in Construction Show, 18th July, The Roundhouse, Derby
- Health & Safety Scotland, 12-13th September, SEC, Glasgow
- Health & Safety North, 9-10th October, Event City, Manchester
- UK Construction Week, 10th October, NEC, Birmingham