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CM Labs launches Signaller Training Station

Canadian developer CM Labs Simulations has released a new Signaller Training Station simulator programme, allowing trainers to simultaneously engage students in a single exercise.



One trainee operates a virtual crane via the company's Vortex simulator, while another uses the Signaller Training Station to provide guidance. The trainee signaller can move around a simulated worksite to inspect the lifting area, identify potential hazards, gain a clear view of all site activity, and provide hand signals to direct the crane operator via webcam and picture in picture display. Trainees either fail or succeed as a team.

£2 million fine for fatal excavator lift

UK companies RK Civil Engineers and RK District Heating have been fined £1 million each, plus costs of £15,847, after employee, David Beresford, 36, was fatally crushed during a lift at EON's renewable energy plant in Sheffield, in December 2015.



Beresford and his colleague were lifting 12 metre, 840kg heating pipes from a trailer into stillages with an excavator, when two pipes rolled off the stillage, with one falling on Beresford, who was standing between two stillages. The Health & Safety Executive investigation found that the company's lifting plan was insufficient and had not been drawn up by a competent person, and that the task was unsupervised. In addition, the pipes had been stacked above the stillage posts, failing to prevent them from falling.

RK Civil Engineers went into administration in June 2016, and RK District Heating went into voluntary liquidation in 2017.

Death costs studio £36k

Maidstone Studios in the UK has been fined £30,000 plus costs of £6,487.76 after Justin Newitt, 38, died following a fall at the studio. In September 2015, Newitt was cutting one of four holes in a ceiling, for air conditioning units, and rather do the work from the scaffold tower he had erected, climbed from the tower into the roof space, in order to cut from above.

The electric saw he was using became twisted and he fell backwards onto an area that he had already cut, falling five metres to the ground. He died later that day. Newitt had received no formal training on how to erect the tower safely, and ladder sections were installed the wrong way around, while braces were damaged and guardrails inadequate. There was no written risk assessment or plan, although meetings had been held to discuss the work, and a plan agreed to cut the four holes from the tower below. However, there was no supervision of the work as it was carried out.

An investigation found that Maidstone Studios had purchased the tower second hand with no manufacturer's instructions.

CPA hosts school day

The UK's Construction Plant-hire Association hosted its first ever Schools Experience Day to give secondary school pupils an insight into the construction equipment sector and the career opportunities available.



The event, labelled 'Can U Dig It? Yes U Can', was held at the Heart of England Conference Centre near Coventry, and was attended by 100 students, teachers and careers advisors. Students saw the latest machinery, including All Terrain cranes, tried virtual reality simulators and talked to people in the rental industry about opportunities. Operators were on hand to demonstrate the equipment and supporters of the event brought along current and former apprentices for students to talk to about their experiences. The event concluded with a 'Meet the Professional' Q&A session.

Mammoet earns European Crane Operators Licence

Mammoet is the first company to acquire certification for European Crane Operators Licence (ECOL) training, following the Mammoet Academy training facility's audit and certification inspection.

ECOL was initiated by ESTA - the European Association of Abnormal Road Transport and Mobile Cranes - to establish a European certification standard for crane operators. Mammoet has been involved in the initiative since the start and has helped develop the pilot training programme. Four participants attended the pilot training session at the academy with all four gaining a licence. The Academy will offer the certified ECOL training to internal external participants. ESTA is now in a position to request the Dutch qualifications framework NLOF to have the ECOL registered and recognised within the European Qualifications Framework.



Erik Kroes of Mammoet (second from left) receives the ECOL certificate

Who trained him then?

Spotted in London, UK, two men putting a banner up from a tower and step ladder. The man on the ground seems more interested in checking his phone than steadying the platform, with no concern for what might land on him.

