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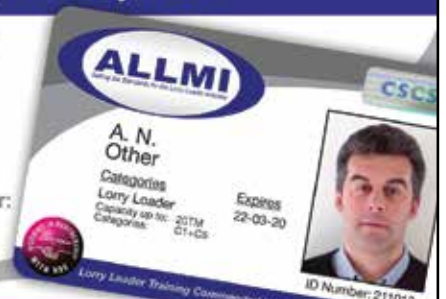
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The Trade Association for the Lorry Loader Industry

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PASMA Conference 2020

Each year PASMA holds a conference to share the latest insights and guidance on scaffold tower safety and demonstrate the ways they can be used. The next event is on 29/30th September at the Delta by Marriott Hotel Nottingham Belfry.

Free tickets will be available and PASMA will invite members to join the event along with anyone else with an interest in towers - including those who select access equipment for their organisation or have responsibility for the health and safety of people who work at height.

Bitesize safety videos

Tower users and managers can benefit from bitesize safety messages, thanks to a new series of short videos released by PASMA on social media. The videos feature Chris Smith, head of audit services and professional standards at PASMA, and Jim Duffy, PASMA instructor at Training Plus. The topics they cover are:

- Who can build scaffold towers?
- Don't build a scaffold tower without the instruction manual
- Safe assembly methods for mobile access towers
- How to safely move a mobile access tower
- How tall can a mobile access tower go
- Using a scaffold tower in windy weather
- Different training for different towers
- Telescopic or one-person towers
- Always inspect your components
- Inspecting a mobile access tower
- Three top tips for tower safety

You can watch the videos on PASMA's Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook pages.

Tower Week

PASMA's annual Tower Week campaign took place from 15th - 21st March. Businesses and individuals came together to celebrate their commitment to safety, their role in the industry and all the exciting things that towers have helped them achieve. Events included a big conversation on height safety, hosted by PASMA managing director Peter Bennett on Twitter, a web seminar by PASMA technical director Don Aers, which provided a comprehensive introduction to upcoming changes to the design standard for mobile access towers, EN 1004, and a Tower of the Month competition.

HSS offers PASMA training to ex-offenders

People leaving prison can now get PASMA training to help them on the path to paid employment, thanks to a new partnership between HSS Training and Bounce Back, a charity that equips ex-offenders with construction industry skills. The courses will be offered to those keen to learn but with no previous experience with scaffold towers.

PASMA managing director, Peter Bennett, attended the opening of the HSS training centre at the Bounce Back headquarters, in London.



Mark Winfield of HSS Training, with Francesca Findlater of Bounce Back, and Peter Bennett of PASMA.

Aerial photo, video and inspection services for PASMA members

What could drones help you achieve in your business? PASMA has its very own commercial drone pilot, Maarten de Vries. PASMA members can benefit from special rates on aerial photo, video and inspection services.



Maarten de Vries

PASMA and IOSH joint event

There was a full house when health and safety professionals gathered in London this February to hear case studies of jobs with awkward access needs, where scaffold towers were the solution. It was the first time that PASMA had co-hosted an event with the IOSH London Metropolitan Branch. The speakers included PASMA members Richard Fairfield of E.T. Hire, Pete Harley of STS Access and Chris Bowman Euro Towers. Covering the use of scaffold towers on three different projects in three different industries, each with their own challenges.



(L-R) Richard Fairfield, Pete Harley, Chris Bowman with Rhaynukaa Soni of IOSH



HSE prosecution after fall from podium steps

A serious accident involving a set of modified podium steps has highlighted the importance of proper training and quality equipment. A man was using the podium whilst welding when it toppled over, causing them to fall two metres to the ground and fracture two vertebrae.



London Tower Crane Hire & Sales pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 6 (3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. This law places a duty on employers to take 'suitable and sufficient measures to prevent, as far as is reasonably practicable, any person falling a distance liable to cause personal injury'. The company was fined £54,000 plus costs of £1,544.

PASMA's chairman Roger Verallo, said: "This accident emphasises the fact that you don't need to be very far off the ground to be seriously injured in a fall. As the HSE inspector in this case noted, podiums are a safe way to work at height - but of course, only when they are used properly by trained persons. Always choose podiums that are certified to design standard BS 8620, follow the instruction manual carefully and please, send your workers on the PASMA Low Level Access training course. Accidents like this don't need to happen."



For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk and www.nofallsfoundation.org