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\$415,000 for fatal fall

US storage tank contractor Skinner Tank has been fined \$415,204 after its employee, Tony Wilson, 56, fell 15 metres to his death at a Soybean processing facility in St Joseph, Missouri last October.

OSHA cited Skinner Tank with failing to provide sufficient fall protection as well as failing to train employees on fall protection hazards and safety precautions. The company is also being charged with multiple violations of safe crane operation, including failing to train operators and signallers, having a competent person inspect crane operations and equipment, and allowing those on site to work under crane loads.

OSHA's principal deputy assistant secretary, Loren Sweatt, said: "Falls are consistently one of our most cited hazards and they can be prevented by complying with training requirements and using appropriate fall protection."



Live safety training available online

The British Safety Council has developed a series of live online courses to help remote workers continue their health, safety and environmental training during the coronavirus pandemic.

A range of IOSH, NEBOSH and other health and safety courses can now be delivered online by the association's instructors, with students able to access the courses remotely using a PC, laptop or tablet. They will also be able to download the course content in advance of a session as well as interact with the instructor and other students throughout the course.

Chief executive, Mike Robinson, said: "Live Online is a radical new way for people that want structured support from a tutor without having to be in a classroom. Our tutors are on hand throughout the course to help and advice."

Lack of fall protection costs more than £80,000

UK company Speed Drop Logistics has been fined £80,000 plus £1,600 in costs, after failing to provide fall protection for employees working on the roof of its premises in Blackburn, Lancashire.

HSE inspectors visited the premises in May last year and saw two men working on removing roof panels without protection or equipment to prevent or minimise the distance of a fall. They also found that the roof was fragile and liable to give way if walked on and concluded that the removal of roof panels should have been carried out from underneath the roof using a scissor or boom lift or a scaffold.

HSE inspector Stuart Hadfield said: "Falls from height remain one of the most common causes of work related deaths, the HSE will not hesitate to take enforcement action against those that fall below the required standard."



Delegates at the Liebherr training seminar

Liebherr training in Saudi

Liebherr has trained 50 delegates from 20 crane companies at its premises in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

The training covered the VarioBase outrigger set-up system, the ECOmode function and new TraXon gearbox. Delegates were also shown how to plan lifts using the Liccon job planner and given practical exercises on a range of All Terrain, Rough Terrain and telescopic crawler cranes.

Ainscough operator apprenticeships

UK-based Ainscough Crane Hire has launched a three year crane operator apprenticeship programme. Open to 20 applicants, apprentices will obtain their slinger/signaller qualification in the first year before moving on to an HGV Class 2 licence and mobile crane operator qualification in year two and three.

Darren Thompson of Ainscough said: "This new apprenticeship programme is a first for us and represents an investment in the future. This is a really exciting time to begin working in our industry, with many large-scale construction and infrastructure projects on the horizon."

The programme is available at 11 locations in Scotland and Northern England with further locations to be added later.



Who trained them then?

Spotted in Seville, Spain, two men attempting to remove a banner at a height of around five metres using a ladder being held in place on the back of an elevated flatbed recovery truck. Due to the position of the loading dock, the man on the ladder has to stretch across the building with the aid of the banner's frame.

