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# PASMA courses online

PASMA has launched an Online Training Portal as a direct response to the coronavirus pandemic. Most PASMA training courses involve both a theory and practical session which in normal times is all done at a training centre. With the new portal, the theory session can be done online instead.



When delegates book a spot on a training course, they will get immediate access to the theory session to complete at home comprising a series of videos and knowledge checks that they can work through at their own pace. When they attend the training centre, they can jump straight to the written assessment and then work through the practical session, where they will get hands-on time with scaffold towers under the watchful eye of a qualified instructor. In this way, face to face contact is minimised.

Training courses with an online section include Towers for Users, Low Level Access and Work at Height Novice, with more to follow. The online courses are proving particularly popular with people who have been placed on furlough by their employer. UK government advice confirms that furloughed employees should be encouraged to do online training.



## Safety Practitioner Zone

Helping workers stay safe on scaffold towers will be easier than ever with PASMA's new Safety Practitioner Zone. This new resource library helps safety professionals update their tower knowledge and share good practice. It includes toolbox talks, tower reference guides, bitesize safety videos and details of upcoming changes to EN 1004, the design standard for mobile access towers.

The PASMA Safety Practitioner Zone is reserved for members of leading safety associations, who are helping PASMA get these resources into the hands of people who will make best use of them. First off the mark is IIRSM, whose members already have access.

Jason Carlton, head of strategic engagement at PASMA, said: "With their leading role in promoting height safety to industry and our shared motivation to keep scaffold tower users safe, safety professionals are key allies. They already ensure anyone working with towers is PASMA trained, and now, with the launch of our Safety Practitioner Zone, they have the tools to continually reinforce the key messages and remind workers to keep up the good habits from their course. We are delighted to have partnered with leading safety associations on this because we know their members are dedicated to promoting good practice and preventing falls from height."



Jason Carlton



## New Toolbox Talks to download

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:

To celebrate the launch of the Safety Practitioner Zone, PASMA has released a series of one page Toolbox Talks which contain the content needed to deliver a safety briefing on five tower related topics, reinforcing key messages that are taught on PASMA training courses:

- Never stand on an unprotected platform
- Using scaffold towers in windy conditions
- How to safely move a mobile access tower
- No instruction manual means no scaffold tower
- Inspecting scaffold towers

The documents were available on social media for 24 hours each during April, before being moved to the Safety Practitioner Zone. However, Cranes & Access readers can download them until the end of June using this link: [www.pasma.co.uk/cranes-and-access](http://www.pasma.co.uk/cranes-and-access)

## Advice for those whose PASMA cards are due to expire

During the coronavirus outbreak, PASMA can extend your card for up to 90 days. To qualify, book a place on a future PASMA training course and complete the online theory section in advance. When you finish the theory section, PASMA will extend your card until the date you plan to finish the course. At the time of writing, you are allowed up to 90 days for this to happen.

The rest of the course takes place at a training centre and consists of a written assessment and a practical session with towers, on completion print out/or download the proof of training to your phone. You will now have a head start, show the proof of training when you arrive for the second part of the training and you will only need half a day at the centre. If you pass the whole course, at that point your card will be extended by the usual five years.

To secure your 90 day extension, speak to or make a booking at your nearest PASMA training centre. When you have done so, you'll get an email from PASMA with a link to take the theory section online.

## Covid-19 updates

For the latest news, service updates and FAQs from PASMA relating to Covid-19, visit [www.pasma.co.uk/covid-19](http://www.pasma.co.uk/covid-19).



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](http://www.accessindustryforum.org.uk) and [www.nofallsfoundation.org](http://www.nofallsfoundation.org)