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All training centres above offer **IPAF/PASMA/CPCS** or other approved and audited training courses. European directives and most national regulations require that staff are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate. If you wish to become a sponsor of the Training & Safety page opposite by advertising, contact us on info@vertikal.net

£40,000 fine for makeshift platform

Alan Twatt Potatoes of Elgin, Scotland was fined £40,000 after an employee sustained serious injuries following a fall from height in November 2017. The employee was running an electric cable through four barns at a height of just over four metres and using a makeshift platform comprising a potato box lifted by a forklift.

He fell around three metres, and suffered a head injury and multiple fractures. An investigation found that "the potato box was unsafe and should not have been used with the forklift". The company also failed to follow its own procedures in relation to safe working at height.

HSE inspector Norman Schouten said: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by using the correct equipment, such as a scissor lift. A potato box is never a suitable platform for working at height."

"A potato box is not a suitable platform for working at height"



A-Plant Apprentice Awards

A-Plant held its annual Apprentice Awards at JCB headquarters in Staffordshire with awards presented for outstanding achievement among its 150 apprentices.



Lift & Move USA student event

The Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA) Lift & Move USA initiative has held an event in partnership with Education Northwest, aimed at encouraging young people to consider a career in the lifting industry. The programme, hosted by Oregon's NessCampbell Crane + Rigging, was attended by high school students, recent graduates, teachers and career transition specialists from more than a dozen schools.

The event included a tower crane demonstration by Morrow Equipment, along with activities organised by Lifting Gear Hire, Industrial Training International, and NessCampbell, including a lifting demonstration.

Education Northwest senior advisor Jennie Fennelle said: "Lift & Move USA provided an authentic way for students to connect and learn about skills needed and careers available in this industry. There is nothing like standing next to a 500 tonne crane for putting it in context for the student."



A lifting demonstration at the event.

£10,000 fine for outrigger mat injury

Scotland's Forth Crossing Bridge Constructors was fined £10,000 after employee Desmond Flett, 49, sustained severe injuries while lifting crane mats at a yard within Rosyth Dockyard, near the new Forth Bridge. In April 2015, Flett was helping a telehandler operator move the two large mats when they dropped onto his legs/feet. An investigation found the work had not been planned by a competent person, was not appropriately supervised or carried out in a safe manner. The chains used were too short for the distance between the lifting points on the mats. It also emerged that the telehandler operator's training ticket/certification had expired.

United Rentals opens VR Academy...

US-based United Rentals has opened a new Virtual Reality and digital training centre, with updated simulators offering a blended learning model for aerial work platform and crane operator training and certification courses. The new centre was opened at the first United Academy training centre in Alberta, Canada.

The new training centre expands on the eLearning and regular training options previously offered through United Academy and incorporates Virtual Reality simulators for platform and crane operation, along with a computer lab, eLearning content that satisfies OSHA requirements, a digital training library and hands-on training.



The grand opening of the new VR United Academy in Alberta, Canada

...And is certified by IPAF

United also concluded an agreement with the International Powered Access Federation, which will allow it to provide IPAF certified aerial work platform training through its United Academy. See www.vertikal.net

Who trained him then?

A video sent in by one of our readers shows a tree worker being lifted by the grab of a loader crane. Hardly best practice. Sadly the quality is poor by you can watch the video at <https://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/31904/>



Or him?

We have a clearer picture from a hotel in Hammersmith, London where a man was spotted working over a deep stairwell with a horizontal step ladder.

