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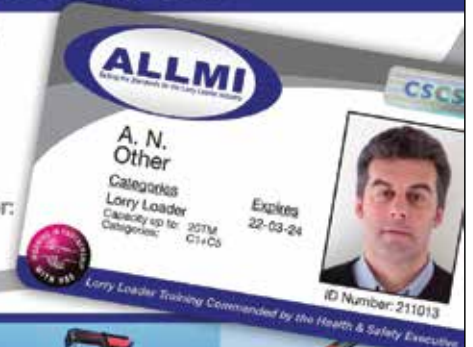
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Three falls, three lessons

Towers are an everyday part of working life, and a safe place from which to work. However, we must never forget the risks involved with work at height. Recently there have been some stark reminders of what can go wrong when towers are used unsafely. PASMA has shared the key lessons from these incidents:



1. Cantilever tower collapse - A tower is assembled, but in the wrong place. A spontaneous decision is made to add a cantilever section, which isn't in the design. It collapses, leaving a man with serious injuries. Lesson: it is not worth taking shortcuts with safety.
2. Employee falls from tower while removing window frames – Two men: one on an incorrectly built tower and one on a stepladder which was unsuitable for the task. No proper planning, qualifications, supervision or planning. The man falls off the tower, through a window frame, knocking the other off the ladder. Both are airlifted to hospital - one unconscious, the other with broken ribs and a punctured lung. Lesson: things can go very wrong, very quickly.
3. Man falls at Paddington Station while climbing the outside of tower – An incorrectly assembled tower is used for testing work on a railway platform. No one in the team is trained to use it. The CCTV coverage provides an unusual opportunity to watch the work taking place and count how many simple mistakes are made and witness an almost inevitable fall. Lesson: watch the video for yourself and see what lessons you take away.

You can learn more about these incidents, and watch the video at www.pasma.co.uk/news

EN 1004 revision

With the product standard for mobile access towers due to change next year the latest information and guidance from PASMA can be found at www.pasma.co.uk/en1004, where you can also register to receive PASMA's free guide to the revised EN 1004, which will include practical guidance and useful information tailored to those responsible for the health & safety of tower users.

PASMA is also inviting questions or comments on the upcoming changes, and any impact you think they might have, or any specific support/guidance you would like from PASMA that it hasn't already addressed.



PASMA training during pandemic

PASMA training centres are taking every measure possible to protect delegates from the Covid-19 virus so they can continue to train them in the safe use of scaffold towers.

PASMA has made a series of recommendations and suggestions for courses and facilities during this period, including:

- Social distancing measures
- Offering online theory sessions
- Using one person towers for practical sessions
- Clear communication with delegates and clients
- Increased hygiene and cleaning



Most PASMA training involves a theory session followed by a practical session.

The theory session for the most popular courses can be completed online, from a computer, tablet or smartphone, in advance of the practical. It includes a series of videos and knowledge checks that the delegate works through at their own pace, delivered by an experienced instructor. Once completed, they receive a certificate to take with them to the training centre where they will complete a written assessment and practical session. When that is successfully done, they will receive their PASMA Card.

e-Learning allows people to make great progress towards a PASMA qualification, even if they are unable to complete the practical segment just yet. It also minimises the contact time needed when they do go to a training centre.

The courses that currently have e-learning modules are Towers for Users, Low Level Access and Work at Height Novice. To book a course contact your nearest training centre.

Virtual instructor training

PASMA has taken its first steps into the world of live online training for novice training instructors. Four people successfully completed their training via Microsoft Teams in August and after a period of mentoring will begin teaching PASMA's most popular course, Towers for Users. This course is aimed at those responsible for assembling, dismantling, moving and inspecting mobile access towers and teaches two safe assembly methods – Through The Trap (3T) and Advance Guardrail (AGR).



Dates for your 2021 diary

PASMA will be represented at the following events:

- 27 / 28 April - Health & Safety Event (Birmingham)
- 15 / 16 September - PASMA Conference (Nottingham)
- 30 October - No Falls Foundation Charity Ball (Coombe Abbey Hotel)



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