

Dropped load costs £415k

Two construction companies in the UK have been fined £415,000 after part of an air conditioning unit being lowered from a roof in London fell and seriously injured a man in 2017.

Three roofers had been working on a roof refurbishment project on Bromley High Street when the air conditioning unit being lowered broke free from the rigging. It fell and struck one of them working from the street below, fracturing his left femur.

An investigation by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) found that only a basic pulley/gin wheel set up was used to lower the parts, and that no one had been assigned to supervise the work. None of the workers had received formal training on carrying out lifting operations or slinging loads.

The principal contractor NMC Surfacing was fined £350,000 plus costs of £45,122, while subcontractor Fraden Contracts was fined £14,000 with costs of £6,015.



Virtual RTG training

Canadian training software developer CM Labs Simulations has launched its latest virtual training course for rubber tyred gantry cranes. Available on any CM Labs ports equipment simulator, the course offers a number of scenarios for working with over height, open top, breakbulk, and liquid containers, as well as with standard 20, 40, and 45ft containers.

As well as providing training delegates with experience of container twistlocks, chain lifts and over height frames, they can also experience all types of loads under different weather and light conditions. Custom challenges and scenarios can also be added such as terminal congestion or having to lift unbalanced or overweight containers.

\$148k for fatal fall

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued a fine totalling \$148,683 to New York construction company Marfi Contracting after an employee fell through a skylight sustaining fatal injuries.

Two employees were using a boom lift to clear debris from the roof of a school building and carry out repairs. One of the men exited the platform and while crossing the roof tripped and fell through a skylight, dropping almost eight metres to his death.

OSHA issued five citations which included failing to have a competent person make frequent and regular inspections of the project, materials and equipment, failing to provide employee training on fall hazards, and failing to provide guardrails, safety net systems or personal fall arrest systems.

Bakery fined £140k for fall

UK bakery Country Style Foods has been fined £140,000 plus costs of £11,589 after an employee fell from a set of 'airline' style steps in 2017. He was using the steps to clean the top of an oven at the bakery's location in Leeds when he slipped from the platform and impaled himself on a section of handrail, suffering a torn artery and nerve damage.

An investigation by the HSE found that the steps had been adapted for a different task, which created an additional risk when used for this work, and that, while a scissor lift was available on the site, the employee was not trained in its use.

Test your rigging skills

US based crane operator and inspector, rigging and planning training provider Industrial Training International (ITI) has created a short quiz focused on rigging and load handling scenarios to test and stretch your knowledge on the subject.

Answer all the questions correctly to win a year's subscription to Cranes & Access. The competition closes Friday 4th June with the correct answers and winners announced on www.vertical.net Monday 7th.

To take the quiz visit: bit.ly/Rigging_Test



Who trained them?



Spotted by a reader in the US, two men being lifted along with building materials to a second storey balcony on the forks of a telehandler. Also note the state of the site and that ladder!