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## Safety Report highlights need for 'near miss' data

This year's IPAF Global Safety Report 2021, which analyses the causes of serious injuries and fatalities occurring when using aerial work platforms, highlights the need for more 'near miss' data to help avoid the most common types of serious accidents in future.

The report, based on incidents logged in IPAF's Accident Reporting Portal ([www.ipafaccidentreporting.org](http://www.ipafaccidentreporting.org)), show that the main causes of injuries and deaths has not changed significantly, although electrocution is now the most common type of fatality along with falls from the platform, with each accounting for 23 percent of deaths. This followed by entrapments at 19 percent and machine overturns at 12 percent. When the accident reporting project began in 2012 most input came from UK members, but reports are now received from as many as 25 countries.

IPAF's Brian Parker said: "The new format makes the report easier to digest and understand. It may be statistically interesting to compare the number of accidents occurring around the world, but it is more informative to look at machine type, configuration, location or industry sector that they are occurring in, and consider the underlying factors. This allows us to present key recommendations to factor in when planning powered access use, and develop technical guidance, safety posters, toolbox talks and relevant training courses to mitigate the specific risks identified. The reporting portal is now available in IPAF's main languages and is helping us gather data from more countries and industry sectors. I'd like to thank the members of our Accident Work Group - Mark Keily, James Clare, Alana Paterson and Chris Wraith - for helping understand and interpret the data gathered through the portal, without them this report would simply not have been possible."

"One thing that we all agree on is the need to focus on areas where we need more data, such as near misses - the seemingly innocuous mistakes that might have led to a serious outcome but didn't."

Visit: [www.ipaf.org/accident](http://www.ipaf.org/accident) to download the IPAF Global Safety Report 2021.



## New tools for ground rescue

The latest addition to the Andy Access poster and Toolbox Talk series focuses on nominated ground rescue persons and why they need to be familiar with platform's auxiliary/emergency lowering systems and understand the rescue plan.

Brian Parker said: "Platforms are all different, some may require more than one fit and able person to execute an emergency descent.

As a key part of pre-use planning and risk assessment, it is important that a nominated ground rescue person learn and practise using the ground controls, auxiliary/emergency lowering controls and relevant procedures. Any delay in assisting the platform occupants can be critical."

They can be found at [www.ipaf.org/toolboxtalks](http://www.ipaf.org/toolboxtalks) and [www.ipaf.org/AndyAccess](http://www.ipaf.org/AndyAccess) and are free to download.



## Roger Wickens' Lifetime Achievement award

The family of Roger Wickens, this year's recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award, has been presented with the commemorative glass trophy following the virtual ceremony earlier this year. The award was accepted by his wife Anne on behalf of her late husband - who passed away in 2019 - at a lunch hosted by IPAF's Peter Douglas at Kilworth House, Leicestershire, one of the couple's favourite places.

"It was a pleasure to join Anne and son Richard for lunch along with former colleague Amanda Beckett to reminisce about Roger and his many years of service to powered access," said Douglas. "Roger was one of life's true gentlemen. I knew him for all of my 27 years with Nationwide Platforms and I would simply say he was a very lucky guy. He spent the whole time I knew him in a job he loved in an industry he loved. He had a huge impact not just on Nationwide, but the powered access industry as a whole. It is a real privilege to have been able to present Anne with this well deserved award in his honour."

Anne Wickens added: "I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Roger spent his entire working life in the powered access industry. To say he loved his work would be an understatement - it was his passion. I was always amazed at the huge amount of technical knowledge and knowhow stored in his mind which he readily shared with others. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him."



Peter Douglas and Anne Wickens

## No Europlatform 2021

This year's IPAF Europlatform conference has been cancelled. Peter Douglas said: "We are just not at a point in the pandemic where we understand what restrictions might be in place later this year, and feel it is the right thing to do. We considered a virtual event but have decided to concentrate our efforts on the IPAF Summit and awards in 2022.