









£52k + prison sentence

Leon Gill, managing director of Boss Scaffolding (Northampton), was given a 10 week prison sentence suspended for 18 months and fined £7,000, plus £45,000 costs, following a fatal incident involving a forklift truck in June 2016.

The operator, Shaun Flynn, 36, had finished unloading a truck, was checking the trailer, when the forklift rolled forward hitting him from behind and trapping him. He was airlifted to hospital but died from his injuries five days later.

An HSE investigation found that managing director Leon Gill failed to take reasonable care for the health and safety of employees, with the poorly maintained forklift found to have a 'dodgy handbrake'.

HSE inspector Jenna McDade said: "This case highlights the importance of regular pro-active maintenance and inspection of work equipment, to ensure it does not deteriorate to the extent that it puts people at risk. The tragic death of Shaun Flynn could have been prevented. Companies and individuals should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

Double fatality costs \$212k

US piling contractor **Hemphill WBE Pile** Driving faces fines of \$212,000 after the boom of a crawler crane collapsed onto a passing pick up truck, killing



both occupants, on Interstate 10 near Beaumont, Texas in April.

The crane, an aging American lattice crawler, was helping with the installation of supports for an elevated section of the highway. The operator miscalculated the weight of a pile hammer, causing the boom to buckle. OSHA cited the company for three wilful and two serious violations, including operating the crane beyond its rated load capacity and failing to assemble the boom properly.

Mark Briggs, OSHA area director of Houston, said: "Two people died senselessly because Hemphill Pile Driving failed to follow assembly instructions and federal regulations. They endangered their employees and every person driving on this section of Interstate 10."

Bucket access cost \$500k and a prison term

Australian concrete aggregate company Cordwell's Resource has been fined \$500,000 and its director, Brian Andrew Cordwell, given a six month suspended prison sentence after two employees fell from the bucket of a front end wheel loader in 2019.



Brothers Steel and Quinlen Adams had been lifted in the loader's bucket to a height of around 4.5 metres in order to carry out repairs to the suction lines of a sand washing machine at the company's sand mine in Chevallum, Queensland. The bucket began to tilt forward, causing Quinlen to jump to a steel crossbeam for safety, while Steel suffered serious injuries after striking his head on the bucket.

Judge Gary Long said: "There were company policies for working at heights, risk assessments and hazard management procedures. In the document dealing with working at height, it outlined that a safety harness was required and that a cherry picker, scaffolding or tools should be used. It was also noted that the workers had performed work from the bucket of an excavator or wheel loader on other occasions."

training



£500k training investment

3t EnerMech, a new joint venture between engineering group EnerMech and training company 3t Energy, has invested £500,000 in crane simulator training systems at its locations in Angola, Qatar and the UK.

The KraneSIM simulators deliver a wide range of virtual training environments including fixed installations, floating platforms and vessels, as well as various crane models, load-types and subsea configurations. It also allows delegates to practice a range of operating conditions and dangerous circumstances which cannot be replicated safely in real life.

Jennifer Batchelor, EnerMech's head of training, said: "This investment allows for training, competence assessment, pre-employment testing, and supporting emergency management and truly cements the 3t EnerMech joint venture aim of delivering world-class training services."

Who trained him?

Spotted in North America, a person pruning a tree limb from a large ladder set up on a sloped roof at height of around 10 to 12 metres. An incident waiting to happen that would almost certainly have proved fatal, or at the very least, life changing.

