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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR IPAF TRAINER PROGRAMME

Nationwide Platforms in the UK has begun accepting applications for this year's 'train the trainer programme'. The company is looking for four individuals to be intensively schooled to become IPAF trainers. Previously, applicants were required to have three years operator experience before moving forward. This programme runs for up to 15 weeks, covering operational aspects, administration, and trainer management, including a minimum of 150 operating hours on various work platforms.



The course emphasises face-to-face on the job training supplemented by e-learning modules. It concludes with a two week assessment, testing knowledge and practical skills. Trainees are taught to critically assess those they train, promoting high safety standards and the correction of bad habits. An assessment day will be held in June, and is open to internal or external applicants, with applications closing at the end of May.

GSR 'MADE IN ITALY' OPEN DAY

On April 15th, Italian truck mounted lift manufacturer GSR organised an event as part of the 'National Day of Made in Italy' at the ITTS 'O.Belluzzi- L. Da Vinci' of Rimini in northeast Italy. The event aimed to educate the younger generation about the company and the access industry.

The event - "GSR: technology, safety and innovation to reach higher" - was proposed by the National Association of the Automotive Industry (ANFIA) of which GSR is associated. The morning kicked off with students getting a hands-on experience with various equipment and aerial lifts with an explanation of machine components, technologies and personal protective equipment. It was then followed by a classroom presentation highlighting GSR's evolution from manufacturing wooden ladders to designing aerial platforms, also delving into the transition from cranes with baskets to aerial work platforms.



DIRECTOR IMPRISONED

The director of UK company Canterbury City Scaffolding - Ian Pepper, 48 - was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison plus a £50,000 fine. The incident involved Steven Gilmore, 36, one of a team erecting a temporary roof scaffold who suffered life changing burns to his hands and a broken leg after he fell from a height of five metres after the six metre scaffold tube he was handling contacted the 11kV overhead power line running across the site.

The HSE discovered that the company failed to assess the risk of erecting scaffolding near a high voltage line and had not consulted the network operator regarding line voltages and safe distances. The director, overseeing scaffold assembly on site, allowed the use of six metre tubes below the power line without considering safety precautions.

HSE Inspector Susie Beckett said: "This scaffolder's injuries were life changing and could have been fatal. This incident could have been avoided if the job had been properly planned, including seeking free advice from the network operator on what precautions to take, and then implementing them to prevent accidental contact with the overhead line."



FATAL FALL COSTS £111K+

UK builder Amberley Homes has been fined £25,000 plus £85,842.34 costs after an employee, Mark Tolley, 51, fell two metres from a scaffold in July 2017.

Tolley had been installing tiles on one of six homes being built in Kent, before falling and breaking his ribs and sustaining internal injuries including a punctured lung, resulting in his death later that month. The HSE found that Amberley Homes had not appointed a person with the necessary experience or training to manage the site and had not ensured that a safe working platform was maintained throughout the project.



£35K FOR ABSENCE OF A HOIST

UK company Everyone's Energy UK has been fined £28,000 plus costs of £6,634.56, after an employee, 41, fell from a ladder while carrying materials up to the roof, fracturing his skull leading to a severe brain injury. The HSE

found that the company failed to plan, manage or monitor work at height, and provide adequate scaffolding or an appropriate means to transport materials to the roof.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Dashcam footage caught a scaffold tower with a ladder balanced on top falling into oncoming traffic in Buckingham, Southern England. As if this was not bad enough, they had not cordoned the area off from the busy road or walkway beneath. Amazingly, no one was hurt.

