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Now in its ninth successive year, the IMeche will once again host this key forum to support and inform all those involved in lifting projects. Enjoy new presentations and case study insights showcasing a diverse range of projects, new technologies, innovations, and lessons learned.

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MULTITEL PAGLIERO JOINS CAREERS FAIR

Italian aerial platform manufacturer Multitel Pagliero has participated in the Politecnico di Torino Career Days in a bid to spread the word on the industry and recruit engineering graduates.

The company was looking to recruit young, or not so young, people that might go on to develop skills in technical design, engineering, production, logistics and technical support. Multitel focused on graduates with degrees in mechanical, mechatronic, electronic, computer and management engineering.

Multitel human resources representative Annalisa Arnaudo led the initiative and said: "Our participation in Politecnico Career Days was an opportunity for us to connect with the professionals of tomorrow, while introducing them to the powered access industry."



SCHOOL FINED £25K, CONTRACTOR GETS 12 WEEK'S PRISON

A school run by Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust in Newcastle, England, was fined £20,000 plus £4,344 in costs, while its contractor Nicolas Thépot was given a 12 week suspended prison sentence with 100 hours of unpaid work after Gillian Gardner, 68, was struck by a falling tree branch while walking her dog, knocking her into the path of oncoming traffic.

The HSE found Thépot had no tree or chainsaw related training or qualifications and yet was cutting limbs from the tree above an open footpath, whilst his apprentice attempted to pull them into the school boundary with a rope. In this incident the rope snapped, allowing the branch to fall into the path, striking Gardner as it did so. She sustained several broken ribs and was unable to leave home for weeks. She said: "It took me about a year to totally recover. I still can't carry anything heavy and have lost confidence in what I can and can't do."

The investigation revealed that the trust made no checks on Thépot's experience, competence or qualifications before awarding him the contract. On the day following the incident, Thépot was spotted using the same method, with only traffic cones and tape placed on the footpath.



The snapped rope



FALL COSTS £106K

UK company Norman Iveson Steel Products was fined £100,000 plus £6,101 in costs, while one of its directors, Phillip Iveson, was fined £1,822 plus £2,358 in costs after employee Jack Croft, 30, fell six metres through a roof light sustaining life changing injuries.

He was installing roofing sheets on a barn in Leyburn, North Yorkshire in 2022 when he stepped onto the roof light and fell through, he sustained five cranial fractures, 10 fractured ribs, cranial bleeding, hearing loss and fractures to his spine, eye socket, cheek, wrist and shoulder as well as a collapsed left lung and pulmonary embolism.

The HSE found that the company had failed to implement basic work at height control measures. Safety netting on site did not cover the entire work area and was installed by persons without the required rigging skills.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted near Geneva, Switzerland, a huge mock-up of the Montgolfier brothers hot air balloon attached to the platform of a 43ft scissor lift.

The stunt dubbed 'Montgolfière' was held at a public event with the large balloon resting on a small tower base in the platform and guy-roped to the guardrails, along with some sandbags and rush matting attached to the guardrails to represent the balloon's basket.

The scissor lift with its balloon and four people on board was raised to its full 13 metre platform height complete each time. The top of the balloon would have been close to 20 metres high.

