

GUIDANCE ON WORK PLATFORM RECOVERY AND RESCUE

A new safety document from IPAF entitled 'The Principles of MEWP Recovery and Rescue' outlines the best practices for developing, implementing and rehearsing machine specific and site specific rescue plans from aerial work platforms.

The document includes formal recovery and rescue planning, approved rescue methods - including platform to platform transfers - familiarisation, scenario-based risk assessments and mitigation, and a strong focus on rehearsals and practical drills. Operators, supervisors, maintenance teams and rescue personnel must be trained both in theory and actual working environments.



'BACK TO BASICS' SAFETY CAMPAIGN

IPAF also participated in the Construction Industry Federation's 'Back to Basics' safety campaign which ran across Ireland for two weeks at the end of October.

The company conducted site visits and safety talks with contractors during the campaign, with topics covered including ground conditions, machine selection, pre-use inspections, operator and spotter familiarisation, safe operation, supervision and rescue plans.

IPAF Irish country manager Damien O'Connor said: "Safety starts on the ground. Whether operating an aerial work platform, managing a worksite or supervising teams, attention to the basics can prevent serious injuries and help save lives."



Damien O'Connor of IPAF leading the campaign on day one at the Walls Construction and O'Flynn site in Dublin

NEW 'SHARE YOUR STORY' SAFETY VIDEO

During the construction of a shopping centre in England, a boom lift overturned falling into a busy road. The operator in the platform was injured, and the road was blocked for six hours. IPAF's latest safety video reconstruction highlights the hidden ground related hazards that caused this and many other overturns, the learning outcomes and the actions needed to minimise the risk of this type of incident.

If you have an experience you'd like to share - anonymously if you prefer - please complete a form on the IPAF website and provide as much detail as possible about the incident or near miss so others can learn from it.

SUSTAINABILITY PATHWAYS ELEARNING

IPAF has launched 'Sustainability Pathways eLearning' which is designed to help members build sustainability related skills and also improve their operations.

The initiative supports the UK government's Build Back Greener strategy and the national goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050, the free online training offers learning pathways catered to the powered access sector. While a little UK centric, it could prove helpful in other markets.

IPAF's Richard Whiting said: "As environmental responsibility becomes a core business expectation, it's critical that our members are ready to lead. We are proud to offer this training as a free benefit to our members. It's a practical way to future proof businesses and support our industry's journey to a greener future."

Members can choose from two courses:

- For aerial work platform management (Designed for supervisors, managers, and business owners)
- For aerial work platform users (For operators, delivery drivers, engineers, and site based personnel)

Each course takes around two hours to complete after which participants receive an IPAF Sustainability Badge.



IPAF ATTENDS SCAFFEX25

Last month, IPAF exhibited at ScaffEx25 in Manchester. Visitors heard about updates to IPAF's training courses, safety guidance and developments in Mast Climbing Work Platforms and hoists.

One of the highlights of the stand was Penny the Pink Hoist, spotlighting IPAF's new Powered Access Industry Trust (PAINT) initiative, to help raise money for cancer research.



Jo Power (L) and Faith Cobaine