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TACKLING FRAUD IN THE LIFTING INDUSTRY

IPAF has been working with industry partners to create guidance and checklists on ways to identify, prevent and report fraud within the lifting industry.

The CPA, HAE and IPAF have worked with the National Construction and Agricultural Theft Team police unit through the Combined Industries Theft Solutions to create checklists helping companies tackle fraud by organised crime gangs.

The checklists aim to help rental company staff, especially those on the hire desk and delivery drivers, recognise and respond to fraud risks. Key measures include taking photographic evidence when handing over assets and challenging suspicious rental or delivery requests.

NCATT and the police need decent record keeping - serial numbers rather than fleet numbers and other key identifiers. Poor records delay identification, allowing criminals to reclaim stolen equipment.

IPAF asks that companies incorporate the checklists, business toolbox's and other training schemes and procedures to improve and share asset identifiers. Check the IPAF website for more information.



FESTIVE SEASON RISKS

As Christmas and the festive season approach, towns, cities and shopping centres prepare to install seasonal lighting in public places. These tasks typically involve the use of aerial work platforms in busy pedestrian zones, near roads and traffic, or next to overhead cables and other hazards.

Seasonal lighting installations are also usually located in areas with high footfall, such as shopping streets, pedestrian zones and town squares. In addition, the time allotted for the work is all too often limited for various practical reasons and thus involves night work, which present additional risks which need careful management.

Key risks to watch for

IPAF guidance, which can be found in the publication 'Safe Use of MEWPs in Public Areas', highlights the following hazards:

- **Electrocution/overhead power lines:** Platforms working near live cables risk contact, arcing or electrocution.
- **Vehicle or pedestrian collision:** Platforms placed in or adjacent to roads or footways are vulnerable to being struck by passing vehicles, or they can pose risks to pedestrians.
- **Falling objects:** Tools, lighting fixtures, or decorations dropped from height may strike people below.
- **Falls from height and overturns:** Insufficient fall protection or unstable ground, such as working over voids and culverts, can lead to overturning incidents.
- **Entrapment/overhead obstacles:** Working in areas with tree branches, street signs or building projections present a risk of entrapment.
- **Traffic and pedestrian management:** The platform may obstruct or block footpaths, putting pedestrians at risk. Working at night or in low-light conditions increases the risks.

Brian Parker of IPAF said: "At this time of year, there is often pressure placed on platform operators to try to save time and money by omitting a site assessment or disregarding safe use practices.

IPAF is keen to remind users of powered access that they should ensure all operators and associated staff are trained, supervised and act in accordance with industry recognised safe practices, particularly when working alongside roads and in public places."



GUIDANCE ON RECOVERY & RESCUE

Aerial work platforms are fitted with both platform and ground controls as well as emergency lowering systems in order to comply with international and regional safety standards.

Employers and platform users must develop a documented recovery and rescue plan specific to the task, machine and the job site. The plan should outline procedures for recovering and rescuing personnel from the platform or from when they are suspended by a lanyard after being ejected from the platform.

Platform users can be stranded or require rescue due to operator error, equipment malfunction, entrapment, entanglement, ejection, breakdown or medical emergency.

IPAF's guidance document, 'The Principles of MEWP Recovery and Rescue' provides guidance on planning and undertaking recovery and rescue from aerial work platforms, including the platform to platform method using another machine. You can download the guidance free of charge from the IPAF website.



IPAF ELEVATION UK

IPAF will host its annual Elevation UK event on July 1st at the Hilton at St George's Park, west of Burton Upon Trent in the English Midlands.

The afternoon will start with a conference featuring updates from IPAF followed by a networking evening with a barbecue, entertainment and drinks.

You can book a spot at:
<https://web.ipaf.org/cn/ay7rl/ELEVATION>

