

SEEKING STARS

Entries are now open for the CPA Stars of the Future Apprentice and Trainee Awards 2026:

- Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2)
- Plant Technician of the Year (Level 3)
- Hire Controller of the Year
- Young Plant Operative of the Year
- Plant Operative of the Year
- Crane Operative of the Year
- Plant Installer of the Year
- Technical Support Person of the Year
- Apprentice Mentor of the Year
- Plus some special awards

**FREE
TO ENTER**
OPEN TO BOTH
CPA MEMBERS AND
NON CPA MEMBERS

ACT NOW!

Make your nominations, either online or by completing the nomination form at www.cpa.uk.net/product/stars-of-the-future/ by 20th March 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Awards ceremony on 9th July 2026



Jack Lovesey, National Plant Mechanic of the Year 2025



National winners 2025

DROMAD TRAINING ACADEMY

Irish aerial lift and telehandler rental company Dromad Hire has opened a new training division - 'DTA Training' (Dromad Training Academy) - to provide safety and skills training for companies and individuals.

The new division operates from a purpose built training facility in Dundalk, north east Ireland, offering dedicated spaces for hands-on learning, practical assessments and classroom study. Training courses include IPAF operator, harness safety, working at height, and manual handling.

Operations director Ronan Cotter said: "Creating DTA Training is a natural extension of what we already do. Our customers rely on us for equipment, guidance and safety. The Dromad Training Academy brings all of that together."



C\$1.3 MILLION FOR DROPPED LOADS

Canadian contractor EllisDon has been fined \$514,800, while subcontractor Newway Concrete Forming has received a \$112,600 fine after a section of formwork was dropped 26 storeys from a tower crane at Oakridge Park, Vancouver, in February 2024, killing Yuridia Flores, 41, a mother of two who was working below. There was no exclusion area below the load path.

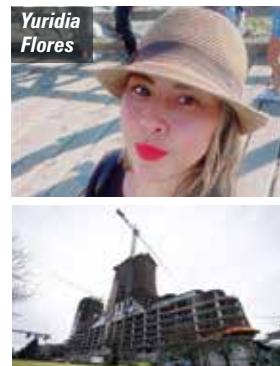
This is the third crane related fine imposed on EllisDon, it follows a \$688,500 penalty for an incident at the same site in October 2024, when a scaffold section was dropped 41 metres to the ground, and another in Victoria in June last year. Neither of those incidents resulted in an injury.

Worksafe BC said: "The three penalties demonstrate that there are significant financial consequences for high risk violations and repeated non-compliance with occupational health and safety requirements."

The following links provide more details:

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6553893>

<https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6682793>



£27K FOR BOOM LIFT ESCAPE

UK based AP Tree Specialists has been fined £20,000, plus costs of £6,950 after an employee suffered life-altering back injuries after falling nine metres from a boom lift in Derby. The lift had stopped working, and no one on site was able to lower the platform, so the man attempted to abseil down, but fell. The incident could easily have been fatal.

The HSE found the company failed to plan, supervise, or safely carry out work at height and had not completed a suitable risk assessment. Director Matthew Scholes, who was acting as site supervisor, also pleaded guilty and was fined £1,000 plus £400 in costs.

HSE inspector Kerry Scott said: "This incident could have been avoided if AP had planned the work with suitable risk assessments and safe systems of work, including a rescue plan."



SCAFFOLD FALL COSTS £811,500

Two UK contractors, Axis Europe UK and its subcontractor Premier Property and Construction, have received penalties totalling almost £812,000 for a non-fatal fall from height.

The incident occurred in April 2024, on a project at Cathcart Hill, London, when a load became trapped during an unplanned lift carried out by Premier Property. One of its labourers attempted to free the load, but when he succeeded, it pulled him over the edge of the scaffold, inflicting life changing injuries.

Axis Europe was fined £640,000, plus costs of £4,790 and a Victim Surcharge of £2,000, while Premier Property was fined £160,000, plus costs of £4,790. The HSE found that Premier Property failed to adequately plan, manage and monitor the work, particularly routine lifting operations and the use of appropriate lifting equipment and accessories, while Axis failed to properly manage and monitor the works being carried out by Premier Property on its site. It also failed to spot insufficient detail on lifting operations or adequately challenge or prevent the use of untested lifting accessories on its site.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted by a reader in Sri Lanka, four scaffold erectors carrying materials along the apex of a tiled church roof at a height of more than 20 metres, negotiating the ridge as if it were a tightrope. A child was also spotted carrying a bucket along the apex while others were doing the same on horizontal scaffold tubes.

