

IPAF'S SPOTTER COURSE

IPAF has launched an online training course for aerial work platform 'spotters', those who assist operators with the safe positioning of the machine.

The 'MEWP Spotter' course takes around two and a half hours to complete and is delivered entirely online, with participants who pass the final test receiving a qualification valid for five years. The training covers spotter responsibilities, safe positioning, exclusion zones, communication methods such as hand signals, and hazard awareness.



FATAL ELECTROCUTION

UK Willand O&M and New Wave Marine have been fined a combined total of £81,000 plus costs of £36,500 after an employee died while another suffered life changing injuries, at the Willand Biogas site in Devon, in southwest England.



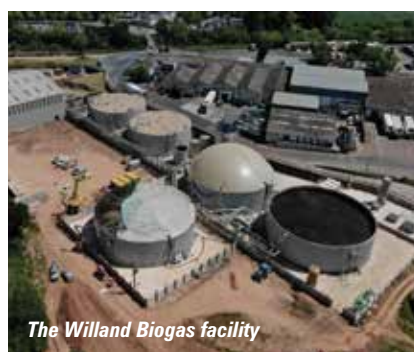
Carl Parsons

Father of three, Carl Parsons, 34, and Luke Madavan were working from a boom lift when it made contact or came too close to an 11,000 volt overhead powerline, electrocuting Parsons and causing life threatening injuries to Madavan.

Willand O&M was fined £51,000 plus costs of £28,500 after it failed to relocate the powerline after being advised to do so by the principal contractor. It also failed to put adequate control measures in place, such as height restrictors on aerial lifts or create restricted work areas.

New Wave Marine was fined £30,000 plus costs of £8,000 after its risk assessment was found to be inadequate. The company also lacked formal training provision and supervision for the work being carried out.

HSE Inspector Nicole Buchanan said: "The death of Parsons and the injuries to Madavan were entirely avoidable. I hope that this case will serve as a lesson to others who try to avoid costs by working near overhead powerlines."



The Willand Biogas facility

MANITOWOC'S MOBILE TRAINING CENTRE

Manitowoc unveiled a 'Mobile training & technology centre' at Conexpo. The unit is an easily transported, fully equipped classroom, able to provide professional facilities for training staff almost anywhere there is sufficient space to set up in, such as dealer facilities or job sites. It is intended for groups of six students or more.

The unit, which can be transported on a 16 metre trailer, provides a 13 x 7.5 metre classroom and can be set up in around four hours and comes complete with furniture and everything needed to put on all manner of training courses. It is initially aimed at entry level training for apprentice technicians and branch based staff in order to provide training earlier in their careers in a working environment, and when relevant alongside the crane model being covered, but without the cost of travel.



CAREER INITIATIVE TO LAUNCH AT VERTIKAL DAYS

A new careers related initiative, 'Curious About Lifting and Access', is set for launch at Vertikal Days in September. Developed by My Future My Choice, the project will include a pack of 52 Top-Trump style career cards, featuring 48 real people working across lifting, access and construction, along with four future roles designed by young people.

The cards will highlight a range of jobs, including sales staff, engineers, operators and technical specialists. Each will outline the individual's role, career path and training route. The aim is to provide schools and colleges with a clearer picture of career opportunities in the lifting and powered access industries, including progression from trade and operational roles into management.

Bristol based My Future My Choice has worked with Vertikal Days and local schools at Haydock, Donnington, Silverstone, Peterborough and Newark for the past 14 years.



WHO TRAINED HIM THEN?

Spotted at a mall in a Chicago, USA suburb, a man working on the façade using a slab electric scissor lift which was clearly too small for the job. The solution - placing a ladder in the platform, potentially doubling the working height. We have covered what's wrong with this many times before, yet some still take such risks when working at height.

