

CRANE SAFETY 2026

Institution of
**MECHANICAL
ENGINEERS**

11 November 2026

etc. venues Manchester

Celebrating ten years supporting lifting operations professionals: join us this November and explore how engineers, site holders, OEMs, and regulators are addressing the complexities of maintaining safety and minimising risks.

Enjoy new presentations and case study insights showcasing recent projects, new technologies and innovations to enhance safety and reduce risk of incidents across all lifting operations.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Health and Safety Executive
- Office for Nuclear Regulation
- LEEA
- Andun Engineering Consultants
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Bowmer + Kirkland
- Select Plant Hire
- Sellafield

Co-located with Nuclear Lifting 2026:

Access two specialist lifting events in one location and date. Network with a wider audience of engineers and safety professionals, attend sessions from both events and take back insights and best practice from different lifting projects.



Early Bird ends 16 Sep 2026
Book your place online:
www.imeche.org/cranesafety

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This year, expect even deeper dives: whether it's advanced AI-driven safety monitoring, new considerations in crane design as we move away from the Machinery Directive to the new Machinery Regulations, and modern methods of construction, and how we attract new talent to our industry at all levels

Steve Bradby CEng FIMechE
Event Chair

Supporting partner

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GSR SAFETY EVENT IN RIMINI

Italian truck mounted lift manufacturer GSR held a two day safety & training event in Rimini, Italy, in partnership with health & safety organisation AUSL Emilia-Romagna Occupational Safety and Plant Engineering Unit and INAIL, the National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work.



A student using the VR simulator

The initiative involved five final year classes from the Belluzzi - da Vinci Technical Institute, focusing on workplace safety and the safe use of aerial work platforms. The event began with a joint session in which GSR, AUSL and INAIL outlined their roles and the responsible use of powered access platforms. Students then split into three smaller groups to rotate through the following: 1. An interactive quiz to test workplace safety knowledge and encourage discussion on risks. 2. The correct use of PPE which included a walkaround of a 27 metre GSR B270T platform. 3. Time on a virtual reality simulator, allowing students to operate a platform in a specific application.



A walkaround of the B270T

FATAL BOOM OVERTURN COSTS \$18.2 MILLION

The families of two brothers who died when an articulated boom lift overturned in Bethany Beach, Delaware, in November 2020 have been awarded \$18.2 million in a wrongful death lawsuit.

Jovan Maldonado-Andino, 23, and Bryan Maldonado-Andino, 22, were working on a mobile phone antenna on a water tower, at a height of around 36 metres from the platform of a 135ft Genie Z135/70 from the Sunbelt Rentals fleet. High winds - 35 to 44mph - caused the lift to overturn and become entangled in power lines. The men's employer, Velex, was cited by the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration for three serious violations.

The suit cited general contractor Nexius Solutions, which hired Velex as a subcontractor, training academy Myndco, and Sunbelt Rentals. Velex paid worker's compensation for the deaths and was not part of the lawsuit, which alleged Nexius and Myndoc were negligent in not ensuring the safe use of the lift by allowing it to be operated in high winds and for failing to properly train the men before they operated it. Sunbelt reached a confidential agreement with the family before trial and was dismissed from the case.

The two men had been hired a few weeks earlier and had received new-hire training by Myndco, but began working on the tower without having completed aerial lift training.

£66K FOR TREE SHOCK

Upton Specialised Tree Services in the UK was fined £60,000 plus costs of £6,237 after a tree surgeon suffered an electric shock when the lighting tower he was moving contacted an overhead powerline.

Joshua Pocknell, 26, was part of a team of three clearing vegetation on a road in Wiltshire after dark. The company failed to adequately plan, or risk assess the dangers of overhead power lines or implement control measures such as barriers or training.

Pockell said: "My whole body locked and I felt hot and cramping. I could hear the electricity in my head and thought I was going to die. I hit the floor and passed out, still cramping. I later discovered a hole had burnt through my arm and hip all the way to the bone."



Moments before the incident

NCCCO PILOT PROGRAMME

The US' NCCCO Foundation has launched a pilot programme dubbed 'Crane Career Advisors', aimed at connecting those interested in a career in the crane industry with professionals already working in the sector. The initiative is intended to help answer common questions from those exploring crane related roles, particularly those without industry connections.



Executive director T.J. Cantwell said: "The creation of the My Crane Career website was the first step in addressing the problem by providing individuals with no personal connections to the industry access to professionals who have built a successful and long term crane career."

Request a connection with an advisor here: <https://www.mycranecareer.org/career-advisor-request/>.

WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted recently at a Lidl store in Dartford, Kent, UK, two men working on a display sign at a height of around four to five metres. Their access equipment included a telehandler with a scissor lift on the forks. The scissor was lifted on its chassis fork pockets that are designed purely for loading or moving the lift over a distance and totally unsafe for such stunts. A more expensive or unsafe platform attachment would be hard to find.

