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LACK OF PLANNING COSTS £85,500

UK companies Clover Access Systems and STM360 have been fined a combined total of £79,300 plus £6,033 in costs, after a man fell through a skylight whilst installing scaffold edge protection at a warehouse in Keighley, West Yorkshire.

James Cranswick, 26, was carrying material from one end of the unit to the other when he stepped on a skylight and fell six metres to the ground below, also landing on a pallet truck.

The HSE found that Clover Access Systems and STM360 failed to plan, manage and monitor the work, with no measures in place to prevent falls from the roof edge or through fragile sections. It said the skylights were almost invisible to Cranswick.

Clover Access was fined £26,000, plus costs of £2,866 - but the company is in liquidation - whilst STM360 was fined £53,300 plus £3,167 in costs.

HSE Inspector Shauna Halstead, said: "Cranswick is lucky to be alive after this incident. His fall was wholly avoidable, the risks associated with work on or around fragile surfaces are well known, and HSE guidance is available to assist companies."



JLG HOSTS STEM EVENTS

JLG Power Towers has hosted a series of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workshops for students attending Granby Primary School in Leicester, and Thorpe Acre Junior in Loughborough in the UK.

Each day, three groups of 20 students attended the workshops at the JLG Power Towers facility in Leicester run by a cross department STEM team. These included 3D printing sessions focused on problem solving, industrial painting and quality inspection and hydraulics training using custom 3D printed scale model teaching tools. Pupils were also given a factory tour and were introduced to the JLG product range.

A teacher from Leicester school said: "The way the STEM team shared their experiences, challenges, and advice made everything feel very real and relatable. It's given them a much clearer picture of what a career in engineering can look like."



Gary Willett of JLG providing students with a tour of the facility

KONECRANES SWITCHES TO VR

Finnish crane manufacturer Konecranes has adopted ITI's (Industrial Training International) Virtual Reality (VR) Crane Simulator for operator training. The company says the simulator will allow it to train up to twice as many crane operators per session and reduce the need for cranes to be taken out of service for training.

The simulator is used within instructor led courses as a step between classroom learning and live crane operation, allowing trainees to practice lifts and different scenarios in a controlled environment.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted in Kalymnos, Greece, by a subscriber: men re-pointing a wall while precariously on old steel scaffold tower frames and planks. On top of that they have used a piece of wood balanced on the top verticals of one frame to gain a little more height.

According to our local correspondent, this is not an uncommon sight on the smaller Greek islands, where, he says, powered access is a rarity.

