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LEARNING AT VERTIKAL DAYS

Students from Lincoln Technical College attended Vertikal Days last month to explore lifting equipment and technology as part of the My Future My Choice initiative. With support from Liebherr apprentices, the students worked in teams to build their own working model cranes, learning how hydraulics play a part in their operation. To successfully complete the task, each team then had to use its crane to lift a small red ball into a bucket.

The students also received presentations from Liebherr representatives about the industry, followed by a guided tour of the show with stand personnel explaining the equipment on display and how it is used. They also had the opportunity to operate a real crane under close observation.



The students testing their own miniature cranes

PRISON SENTENCE FOR TELEHANDLER OPERATOR

A self-employed telehandler operator has received a suspended prison sentence after reversing over and killing a colleague in Cheshire, England.

Michael Nixon, 46, was operating a telehandler on a large construction site in Ince, Ellesmere Port, when he reversed into James Connolly, 49, who was working as a lift supervisor on the site and died from the injuries he sustained.

An investigation by the HSE found that the principal contractor had taken steps to reduce the need for reversing on site, including creating a turning circle that was clear at the time of the incident. Despite this, Nixon - a fully qualified operator - chose to reverse without a banksman. He had also been using his mobile phone while carrying out the manoeuvre.

Nixon pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 weeks in prison, suspended for 12 months, fined £800, and ordered to pay £2,000 in costs.

HSE inspector Laura Royales said: "Workplace transport incidents remain one of the biggest causes of workplace deaths, drivers must follow site rules rather than cut corners."



James Connolly

RISKY ROOF WORK COSTS £17K

UK contractor B&O Developers and its director Sanjay Swaminarayan were prosecuted after the HSE was alerted by members of the public to unsafe roof work during a refurbishment job on a hotel construction in Kings Cross, London, UK in 2024. Photos showed no fall protection or safe access, while some of those on the roof were using a makeshift platform balanced on a stepladder.

The HSE found no controls were in place to stop those working on the roof from falling on at least two dates, despite scaffolding and other measures being identified as necessary in the subcontractor's own risk assessment.

The HSE had previously responded to several public alerts between 2021 and late 2023 taking enforcement action, while also meeting Swaminarayan to discuss improving management, and yet nothing changed. B&O Developers was fined £5,628, while Swaminarayan was fined £3,408 and ordered to pay £8,000 in costs.



WHO TRAINED HIM THEN?

Sent in by a reader in central Brighton, UK - a man perched on the edge of an upper shop window ledge carrying out work on a second floor window (third floor in the USA) at a height of seven to eight metres.

The ledge is little more than a decorative feature meant for a shop sign, but that's not the worst of it. He's squatting right on its edge, some seven metres above the pavement, with nothing to stop a serious fall should he lose his balance or should the thin edge bearing most of his weight give way.

If he had fallen, he might have landed on a pedestrian passing below.

