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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing

# Crane provides rescue training

A 30 metre crane on the new Durham leisure complex provided local fire-fighters with the ideal opportunity to practice rescuing casualties from tower cranes.

The complex is being built by local construction company Morgan Ashurst.



The Aerial Ladder Platform

"We are always happy to help the fire service practice rescue drills in a 'real world' yet controlled environment," says Morgan's safety, health and environment adviser Geoff Sellers. "The skills practiced here may be the life-saving acts of tomorrow."

The first rescue session involved rescuing a casualty trapped at the top of the crane using an aerial ladder platform (ALP). Once at full height, the rescue team climbed the rest of the crane attached rope access equipment and lowered the casualty into the ladder platform. In the second simulation a team climbed the entire height of the crane, attached line rescue equipment, using it to bring the casualty down safely.

Ken Ball, assistant district manager for Durham and Chester-le-Street, said: "There is a lot of construction in the region using this type of crane and it is important for fire crews to train under realistic circumstances to perfect their skills."



Using line rescue equipment to bring a dummy down safely.



three men and a plank

**Priorities**  
They have their hard hats, probably steel toe capped boots too, but look at the state of their access equipment!



bad practice

**Who trained this man?**  
Probably given the wrong machine for the job this man tries to make do in an exceptionally dangerous manner

## Fatal fall from truck costs £148,000

TNT Logistics UK of Holly Lane, Atherstone, Warwickshire, was fined £120,000 plus costs of £28,184. after pleading guilty at Manchester Crown Court to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Lorry driver Derek Howe, 56, suffered fatal injuries on 15 May 2004 when he fell off a lorry at TNT's premises in Irlam. He was helping free a worktop on the back of the truck when he fell two metres onto the concrete yard. HSE inspector Richard Clarke said: Mr Howe's death could have been prevented if TNT had taken appropriate precautions in line with health and safety legislation. Every year 2,000 people are injured at work falling from vehicles.

## Fall from a three metre ladder kills 35 year old.

Robert Schmelter, 35, was working from a three metre ladder at Anchor Storage, in Kenton, near Debenham when he fell and was taken to Ipswich Hospital with severe head injuries, where he later died. Stephen Britt, managing director of Anchor Storage, a small family run business, said: "First and foremost I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the family of Robert Schmelter who sadly passed away following a tragic accident which took place on our premises." Schmelter was a subcontractor working for Eco2 B.V.

## Fall costs company £100,000

An Italian company, Industria Armamento Meridionale, has been fined £75,000 plus £25,000 costs after a worker died from a fall whilst painting a ship crane in Falmouth.

The case brought by HSE followed the death of Aniello D'Urzo, who fell approximately 12 metres whilst painting the crane of a cargo ship, the Repubblica Di Roma, in dry dock. D'Urzo was seated in a rope suspended bosun's chair when the rope parted and the chair fell to the deck. HSE's investigation revealed that the defendants safety management system lacked specific detail to manage work at height and failed to ensure that equipment used was in good

condition. The rope used to support the bosun's chair was in poor condition, showing signs of abrasion and ultraviolet degradation. HSE inspector Barry Trudgian said: "This incident clearly demonstrates the inherent dangers which exist in any work at height. Employers need to be aware of the dangers and take appropriate action to reduce the risks before an incident occurs. There is a great deal of guidance available to help companies get it right and a relatively small investment can not only save lives but also save money in the long run, especially in terms of sickness absence and enforcement action."

## National



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