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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 for full listing

Fatal fall costs £45,000

Pervez Mohammed Iqbal was fined £15,000 plus £2,800 in costs by Wolverhampton Crown Court in November, after pleading guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 following a fatal accident at a textiles factory in Smethwick on 20th April 2007. Satnam Singh, 62, fell between five and six metres through a fragile roof-light while carrying equipment and building materials across roofing known in roofing and building industries to be fragile. The roof was being accessed from a ladder and across the pitched roofs of several factory units in which people were working.

Plastic roof-lights had been replaced following a burglary at the site and further work was being carried out by Kundi Electrical to repair recurring roof leaks. Singh was working under the direction of Iqbal who was carrying out the work for Kundi Electrical.

In February Surjit Singh Kundi trading as Kundi Electrical of Oldbury, had been ordered by West Bromwich Magistrates, to pay £25,000 in fines, with £2,301 costs after pleading guilty to a similar charge for the same accident.

HSE Inspector Georgina Speake said: "Iqbal failed to undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment to

identify the risks associated with the work being undertaken."

"Many incidents can be avoided if employers identify a safe way of tackling a job, provide necessary protective equipment and ensure that employees are fully trained and properly supervised. In this instance there were a number of alternative methods which would have greatly reduced the risk. Precautions that need to be taken to prevent falls are often simple and free guidance readily available to help employers take the right action."

Online lifting training

The Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) has launched a new online training portal, for employees of member companies. The new service is intended to provide a faster and more flexible support for students working towards the LEEA's diploma examination, widely recognised as the industry standard for engineers responsible for the thorough examination of lifting equipment such as overhead travelling cranes, hoists, slings and load lifting attachments.

The launch marks the first step towards a fully interactive e-learning programme from the LEEA. With the new on-line facility, students who were previously limited to a traditional correspondence course will be able to progress at their own pace. Assignments are delivered, marked and returned online, with no delay between the completion of one module and the availability of the next.

Ultimately the system will incorporate instant on-line marking and a rolling course schedule, replacing the current, fixed, 20-week cycle.



Online Service Training at Genie

Genie has introduced an online service training programme that will allow technicians to develop their technical ability and familiarity with the servicing of the company's products. The interactive training covers everything from troubleshooting to repairing and routine servicing. The first course is a 12 lesson basic electrical theory programme. At the end of each lesson, the technician can participate in a quiz to review the information.

Participants need a computer with internet access and a registered Genie account. The technician must score at least 80 percent to pass the final exam. A printable certificate of training is then provided for the successful completion of the course. A second online course on hydraulic theory is planned, followed by specific product courses. All online service training will be offered to customers free of charge.



This worker is certainly being supervised, has a proper risk assessment been done?

Who trained him then?



Way too many companies still turn to their forklift and a pallet to carry out work at height, and all too often an accident occurs - look at the observer with his Hi-Viz vest - talk about distorted priorities!



These tradesmen have some ladders but are still struggling to reach the lamp. Clearly some common sense training is required.

Tyre Training

The UK Health and Safety Executive in conjunction with the National Tyre Distributors Association and the British Tyre Manufacturers Association, is organising a series of workshops between **January** and **March** to draw attention to the dangers of handling tyres.

Places on the three-hour workshops are on a 'first come first served' basis and there will be an administration fee of £10 to attend. All attendees will receive a certificate confirming participation in the workshop. To book your place email lynesmith@ntda.co.uk

The events take place at:

- 28 January - Park Royal Hotel, Stretton Road, Stretton, Warrington, Cheshire.
- 3 February - Cooper Tire Sports and Social Club, Melksham House, Market Place, Melksham, Wiltshire.
- 11 February - Thurrock Hotel, Ship Lane, Aveley, Essex.
- 26 February - Garfield House Hotel, Cumbernauld Road, Stepps, Glasgow.
- 11 March - Holiday Inn, Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham.
- 18 March - Xscape, Colorado Way, Castleford.