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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

Hotel owners hit for £22,000

The owners of a Bradford hotel have been fined £15,000 after telling two workers to climb on to the roof more than four storeys up to take down a flagpole without safety equipment. Magistrates ordered Tomahawk Hotels, which owns the Great Victoria Hotel in Bridge Street, Bradford, to pay £12,000 for breaching health and safety rules and £3,000 for failing to assess the risk involved. The company was also ordered to pay £7,000 of costs to Bradford City Council which brought the prosecution.

The man responsible for the work, maintenance manager John Partridge, 38, was fined £1,500 for failing to take reasonable care about the safety of the two men on the roof and not obtaining "suitable and sufficient" safety equipment.

The two men were spotted on the roof without any safety equipment in June 2006. Council health & safety staff saw them from their offices and took photographs of them in action pushing and pulling the flagpole to try and free it from its socket.

The prosecutor said: "The photograph shows the significant height at which the men are working and neither are wearing a safety harness. A step ladder leaning on the ledge of the roof hatch, was also a dangerous access method in that two of its legs were entirely

unsupported and the legs themselves are held together with a rope."

She also went on to say that there were discrepancies over what Partridge had been told by his employers. He denied being told to buy whatever safety equipment he needed and to do the job himself. He also said he had received no health and safety training, something which the company's records appeared to dispute - though the Council brought these into question.

The prosecution said that: Partridge claimed he had done a verbal risk assessment, but that it was "insufficient" and the "risk was obvious" - there was "potential for serious harm to the workers."

John Coen, representing the hotel and Partridge, told Bradford

Two men on the roof cost £22,000.

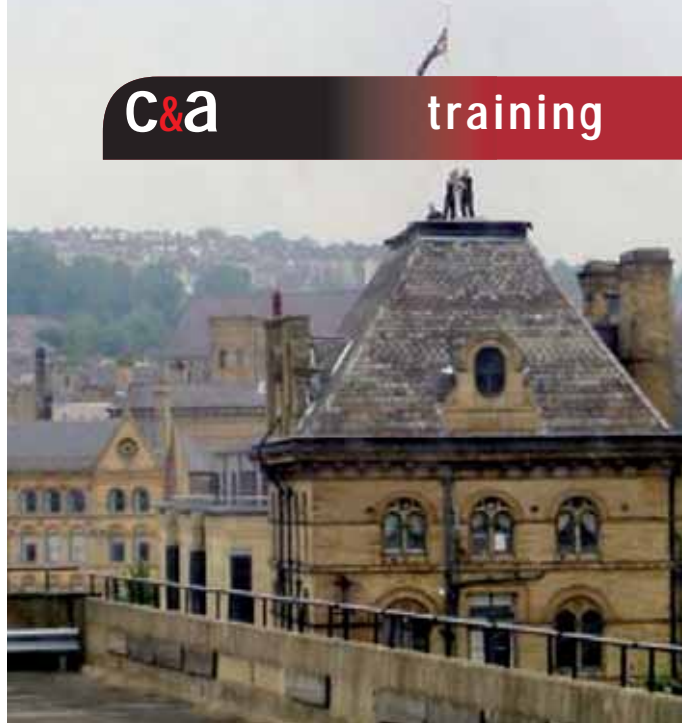
magistrates that following the verbal risk assessment they decided that the work would be done on a dry day and in daylight. The roof was flat and about eight by three metres in size and the pole was in the middle. "The risk did not require the men to go towards the edge of the roof and there were only up there ten to 15 minutes."

The men had been told to stay away from the edge and to simply unscrew the bracket, not pull the pole back and forth."

After the case David Clapham, principal environmental health

manager at the Council, said: "We are pleased with the level of these fines which illustrate how serious these offences were. We hope this sentence sends out a strong message to other businesses that the health and safety of their employees must be paramount."

Simon Grybas, the hotel's current general manager said: "We take the welfare of our employees very seriously and we have learned from this experience. We now have full training systems in place and we are fully compatible with all Health and Safety regulations."



Lack of training costs \$92,000

Canada Steel Service Centre has pleaded guilty and been fined \$92,500 after serious injuries were suffered by a young worker in its warehouse in London, Ontario. On April 23, 2007, a young employee at the warehouse who had been on the job just under three months was moving two bundles of steel round bars weighing around 4,000kg with an overhead crane operated by a remote control from the ground.

The rigging of the lifting slings fitted by the employee was improper and unsafe and the steel consequently slipped out of the rigging and struck the man causing serious foot, lung, leg, arm and back injuries. One of his feet was later amputated.

The company was fined for failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker about how to safely operate an overhead crane to lift bundles of round bars, and failing to provide information, instruction and supervision about safe rigging procedures.

New scaffold guidance

The National Access and Scaffolding Confederation (NASC) has launched its guidance note TG20:08 - A Guide to good Practice for Scaffolding with Tubes and Fittings.

Designed as an important, practical and user friendly guide for scaffolding contractors and designers, the guidance note will also be of use to construction companies working with scaffolding contractors.

TG20:08 details how tube and fitting scaffolding can be erected to comply with the European standard BS EN



12811-1, which supersedes BS 5973. Some main contractors want the guidance to be implemented immediately although the HSE has agreed not to fully enforce it for the first two years.



Who trained him then?

This man was spotted working on the power lines outside the Harbortown Hotel in Iloilo City, on Panay in central Philippines.

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