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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

Falling load costs Shell and others £327,000

Shell UK Oil Products, Dalprop (formerly S.G. Blair) and Hertel UK have received fines totalling £283,332 after a man was paralysed from the waist down after he was hit by a falling load. The accident occurred at Shell's Stanlow refinery near Ellesmere Port on 9th February 2007 when Stephen Rizzotti was working for S.G. Blair on a refurbishment project at the plant. The company was removing part of the concrete lining of the 'cracker' unit.

The waste material was being placed into a skip placed on a scaffold structure over a walkway. The boards around the lifting equipment had shifted which contributed to the 500kg skip falling almost 10 metres onto Rizzotti, as he passed below. Rizzotti, 42, a father of three, suffered a broken back, two broken legs, a broken pelvis and other injuries. Prior to the accident he had led an active life which included running two junior football clubs, but is now in a wheelchair.

HSE Inspector Alan Graham said: "This incident was totally avoidable and has had a devastating impact on Mr Rizzotti and his family. The scaffolding should have been constructed so that the lifting equipment was away from areas where people had to walk. The landing area should also have been suitably protected."

Rizzotti joined SG Blair as a labourer

in 1991 and had progressed to human resources manager. "I can't remember anything about what happened. Half a dozen people had gone into the building before me but then, as I went in, the waste materials fell on top of me. It was touch and go at first but thanks to the doctors I survived. Now I have to get on with my life in a wheelchair. I have a simple message for all companies - safety has to be paramount," he said.

Shell and Dalprop pleaded guilty to contravening the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. Shell was fined £116,666 plus costs of £16,204, and Dalprop £83,333 with costs of £11,115. Hertel UK which installed the scaffolding and platforms, pleaded guilty to contravening the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £83,333 plus costs of £16,204.



DavyMarkham MD,
Kevin Parkin (L) receives
certification from Dennis
Healey of IMechE

Apprenticeship scheme certified

The apprentice scheme operated by UK-based engineering contractor DavyMarkham, has been officially accredited by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). The scheme, which was successfully revived by the Sheffield firm two years ago, has been approved under the institution's Engineering

Technician Development Scheme with DavyMarkham apprentices automatically becoming affiliate members of IMechE. Upon completion of their three or four year apprenticeships, they will be eligible to apply for Engineering Technician status and to use the EngTech MIMechE title.

Manhole costs contractor £27,000

Shepherd Construction of Jockey Lane, Huntington, York, UK has been fined £20,000 plus almost £7,000 in costs after pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 following an aerial lift accident in Trinity Square, Nottingham in 2007. One of the company's employees drove a boom lift over a concealed manhole cover which gave way under the weight of the machine causing it to topple over, leaving its driver with serious injuries to his skull, back and legs.

The lift's extended boom landed in a busy area that had been occupied by pedestrians and vehicles only seconds before, closing the road for six hours. HSE Inspector Martin Giles said: "This was a very dangerous incident, in an area which was bustling with pedestrians and vehicles. It could so easily have led to people being killed and has left a worker with serious injuries.

"The company failed to put in place adequate measures to find and record where the manholes and service covers were around the site and failed to take steps to protect them or prevent vehicles from driving over them. Operators of mobile elevating work platforms, such as scissor lifts and cherry pickers, must be warned about manhole covers and underground services because there is a real risk of them collapsing and heavy vehicles toppling over. When people's lives are at risk it is absolutely inexcusable to leave this to chance."

Who trained him then?

Spotted by a reader in Austria, a man who clearly has no concept of safe operation.

1. He has selected the wrong machine for the job
2. He is using the scissor lift without unloading it from the delivery trailer

As it is still not high enough he has decided to stand on the guardrails

Chances of an accident:
Extremely high



Who
trained
him