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New DVD launched at EHS



PASMA exhibited for the first time at the Executive Hire Show at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry alongside association members Euro Towers and the Youngman Group.

In addition to showcasing its training courses, best practice guides, DVD's, information posters, pocket cards and tower inspection records. The association took the opportunity to launch its latest DVD/CD entitled 'Accidents can happen even at low level' which provides best practice advice on how to assemble, move and dismantle folding step units and folding low level access units.

The DVD also features sequences devoted to 'unsafe' practices which illustrate what can go wrong when these low level access products, useful as they are, are used by inexperienced and untrained operatives.

For more information about the new DVD, together with details of the existing DVD's 'Accidents don't just happen' and 'Don't fall for it', visit the PASMA website www.pasma.co.uk



Peter Bennett

Training and competence responsibilities

In a recent article, Peter Bennett, PASMA's managing director, addressed the issue of training and competence.

In writing for Safety Health Practitioner, the official journal of IOSH, he argued that if we are ever to achieve widespread competence we need to recognise the need for training at all levels of an organisation - not just at the sharp end.

For employers that means recognising that in order for employees to exercise their competence, they must have the authority to delay or even stop work at height if they have genuine and well-founded concerns. For employees that also means recognising that 'yours is to reason why' in that they have a responsibility not to work at height if they believe that the work method, or the equipment they are using, is unsafe.

For the self-employed, it means that they have a special duty to manage and control themselves to ensure a proper balance between their unfettered authority to decide what to do and how to do it and the need to always be vigilant and circumspect, particularly when working at height.

In conclusion he said: "There is no doubt that training is an essential element of establishing competence to work at height, but it is only one element. Unless it is combined with actual experience - underpinning knowledge and the delegated authority to make a difference - it's not worth the certificate of competence it is written on."

Who's Who at PASMA 2010

Members of Council for 2009/10 are:

Chairman: Roger Verallo, Euro Towers Ltd
Deputy Chairman: Kevin Bellis, Atrium Access Ltd
Vice Chairman: To be elected

Council

Brian Meadmore
Peter Bond
Kevin Bellis
Paul Pritchard
John Bungay
Mark Turnbull
Colin Wright
Alistair Lang
Paul Gallacher
Mick Aston

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SGB Group Ltd
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Alto Tower Systems Ltd
Youngman Group Ltd
Speedy Hire Group plc
Aliscaff Ltd
Turner Access Ltd
Pop Up Products Ltd
Astra Access Training Ltd

C&a

PASMA

PASMA posters

The association currently publishes four posters covering tower inspection, PASMA training and how to spot fake PASMA photo ID cards. More details from jill.couttie@asma.co.uk



PASMA at the AIF Knowledge Base

Together with IPAF, IRATA, NASC and the Ladder Association, PASMA will be a major contributor to a series of lively presentations, debates and demonstrations on the latest issues affecting work at height at this year's Safety & Health Expo, 11-13 May at the NEC.

In a marked departure from previous years, PASMA will host 'the great tower debate' which will argue the case for and against using the advanced guardrail system to assemble mobile access towers.

For the first time, PASMA and other Forum members will be joined by representatives from the Association for Project Safety (APS), the British Safety Industry Federation (BSIF) and the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH).

The Knowledge Base is a new concept for 2010 that combines Access Live and the Seminar Theatre into a single focus for working at height.

For more information please visit www.accessindustryforum.org.uk

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