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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

Lack of training costs £33,000

A semi-trailer manufacturer, S Cartwright and Sons (Coachbuilders), of Trafford, Manchester, has been fined £15,000 and ordered to pay £18,315 costs after pleading guilty to breaching the health & safety at work act following an accident in which an employee was crushed by more than two tonnes of falling steel.

The prosecution followed an incident in Broadheath near Altrincham in March 13th 2008. David Jones was helping to move a stack of 6.7 metre long metal strips onto a trailer when the incident happened. The stack and lifting beam, weighing a total of 2.2 tonnes, fell onto him from the forks of a forklift truck. Jones broke his back in four places, along with 12 ribs and a shoulder blade, punctured a lung, bruised his heart and suffered stomach injuries.

HSE Inspector Richard Clarke said: "This man was seriously injured because the company did not do enough to protect the safety of its employees. Mr Jones is still in constant pain and the incident could have killed him. The company regularly requires its employees to unload long stacks of metal strips, which are used to build the trailers for lorries. But, at the time of the incident, it did not provide suitable training or written guidance for its staff to handle long loads."

Scaffold collapse costs £31,000

A scaffold collapse has cost Sale based Craven Scaffolding Ltd £31,000 in fines and costs to collapse of one of its scaffolds at the Ricky Hatton health and fitness centre on Queen Street, Hyde during its construction.

The court heard that the company had failed to tie the tube and coupler scaffolding to the building, despite it being in a windy location. The structure, which was more than 40 metres wide and nearly six metres high, was forced over by high winds early in the evening of Saturday 17 January 2009. It collapsed onto a neighbouring residential street, damaging several parked cars.

HSE Inspector Neil Martin said: "People living near the site could easily have been badly injured or even killed when the scaffolding collapsed. Several cars parked on the street were

crushed but luckily no one was in them at the time. There is a primary school nearby and it is sheer luck that this incident happened in the evening and not at the end of the school day. I would not like to speculate about the injuries it could have caused."

"The scaffolding collapsed because basic health and safety procedures weren't followed when it was put up. Craven Scaffolding had put up netting on the scaffolding to catch falling debris but it acted as a sail and pulled over the structure, which was not tied to the building.



C&a

training

Who trained him then?

Spotted on a trading estate in the North of England an overloaded forklift reversed down a ramp into the street with its rear wheel some 2ft/60cm in the air, unable to turn. A rapid recruitment drive gathered sufficient counterweight to continue, and then drive up the ramp of a low loader to deposit the load.



A-Plant helps disadvantaged

A-Plant has joined the Prince's Trust Construction and Business Services Leadership Group (CBSLG) and is participating in the Get into Construction programme which allows young people to gain experience in the industry, as well as a qualification that will help them take their next step into employment. The programme helps young people who have struggled at school, have been in care, are long-term unemployed or have been in trouble with the law.

As part of the programme, A-Plant will offer work placements and training to young people in the community, helping them to gain a qualification such as the CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card. Following the placement, participants will be considered for potential apprenticeships or employment and will be offered six months progression support from the Prince's Trust to further assist them

to progress into employment, education or training.

A-Plant's chief executive Sat Dhaiwal said: "We're very proud to be part of this programme and be given the opportunity to work with young people to upskill them, offer work experience and ultimately provide employment opportunities to help them pursue a career in the construction industry."

A Plant is encouraging young people to "get into construction" with the Princes Trust

