



Dear Leigh,

In light of the volume of accidents that you are now reporting, both on line and in the magazine, due I am sure to the wonder of modern communications and the internet etc.. I wondered if you might consider collecting and then publishing the actual statistics in some way so that those who might be less familiar with access equipment can put the number of accidents into perspective.

I believe that on any normal working day over 100,000 aerial lifts are used for several hours each on job sites and workplaces around the world. This equates to around half million operating days per five day week or 2 million a month. If we assume that you are reaching the stage where most serious accidents are covered in your publications then how would the number of accidents per 100,000 operational days compare say with crossing the street or even flying in a plane?

Perhaps this is something you should be highlighting more often?

I recently read a comment on air travel which said that many people feel that is more dangerous than driving or rail travel. In reality, according to the statistics, the chance of being involved in an aircraft accident is 11 million to one, compared to 5,000 to one for being killed in a car accident. The drive to the airport is by far the riskier part of the journey and yet people think that they have far more control over the driving part of the trip than they do over the flying... The facts show that it is simply not true, but as with cranes and platforms, air accidents attract a lot more media attention than the 100's of car accidents that occur every day.

While I do agree that the you are providing a very important service in the reporting of these accidents, which will inevitably lead to a safer industry, I also think that you must create and publish some good statistical examples of how safe or unsafe it is to use a platform so you don't make people think cherry pickers are dangerous.

Let me know your thoughts.

See you at Bauma.

Gordon Leicester

Dear Leigh

Vetikal.net features

Spider lift tips 13.4.07 & Another outrigger accident 14.4.07

I am continually amazed at the lack of attention to proper ground support/outrigger pads/cribbing on access platforms and cranes. In the past few days we have read through your web-site (noted above for ease of reference) of instances where cranes and access platforms have tipped over because of little or no support under their outriggers.

Given all the publicity recently to the 'top end' of platforms, regarding harnesses, it's about time we looked at the 'bottom end' and think of proper ground support in the correct use of outrigger pads.

Who in their right mind would buy a house without a foundation? Therefore let's think safe and promote the correct outrigger pads for the application to help prevent further accidents of this type.

The 'spider lift tips 13.4.07' could in all probability have been prevented for as little as £260 for a set of pads and likely have saved this young man a stay in hospital with back injuries..!!

The late Peter Oram formerly with the HSE was a great promoter of proper ground support and he was not wrong..!! His philosophy continues within the HSE in that safety comes first..!!

Yours sincerely

Bill Green

The reporting of what seems like so many accidents has become a concern to us. The aim of our reports is to both highlight dangerous practices and hopefully bring home the reality that the improper use of, or operation of, a crane, telehandler or aerial lift can be dangerous. And yet if used properly an aerial lift is safer than flying in a commercial aircraft.

Even when abused, an aerial lift is very forgiving. If users were to employ a little more thought with a little more awareness of what can go wrong and if boom operators all wore harnesses with short lanyards the number of fatal accidents would be reduced to a handful worldwide.

We will take Gordon Leicester's suggestions on board and either develop our own statistics or work with industry associations to help create an independent database that can show precisely how safe powered access is.

Ed

Letters to the editor

Please send letters to the editor: Cranes&Access: PO Box 6998, Brackley NN13 5WY, UK. We reserve the right to edit letters for length.

We also point out that letters are the personal views of our readers and not necessarily the views of the Vertikal Press Ltd or its staff.

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