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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

Poor outrigger set-up costs operator A\$8,000

A crane operator has been fined A\$8,000 (£4,600) in a Fremantle court, in Western Australia, after a crane tipped over on a construction site, narrowly missing four workers. The operator, Bruce Edwin Bannister, pleaded guilty to two charges - failing to ensure his own safety and failing to ensure the safety of others.

WorkSafe claimed that Bannister set up the crane with one of its outriggers on soft sand and another - the front jack - on a pile of bricks.

The dogman (banksman) was not sure the crane could reach the required radius for the load placement and asked Bannister to do a practice run without the load. During the 'practice run', the ground under the outriggers gave way and the crane tipped, coming to rest on the building and scaffolding.

The crane did not hit anyone, although one man had to run to avoid being hit. WorkSafe WA commissioner Nina Lyhne said: "Setting up a crane on a solid foundation is one of the fundamental principals of crane

operation, but one that was not observed in this case. The operator placed himself and another four employees in danger of being injured or even killed by the crane when it fell."



Who trained him then?

The man in the photo was spotted by a reader in Northern Ireland. He works for an electrical contractor and was working at a height of between four and five metres.

Telehandler accident costs £10,000

Scottish contractor James Swinton has been fined £10,000 after one of its workers, Charles Wilkinson, 51, died four weeks after being struck by a telehandler driven by a co-worker.

The telehandler was reversing the wrong way up a one-way residential street in Tweedmouth, on 10th November 2008, when it mounted the pavement and struck Wilkinson, who was taken to hospital with injuries to his pelvis, spine and ribs but later released. However he died four weeks later as a result of a blood clot related to the incident.

HSE Inspector Dr Dave Shallow, said: "Site transport activities should be managed to minimise as far as possible the need for reversing. But where it is necessary, site managers should ensure that it is done in a safe and controlled manner, using a banksman, reversing aids on the vehicles and segregation of pedestrians and vehicles. The company could have asked for a road closure which, along with these measures and the removal of residents' vehicles, would have allowed safer movement of construction plant and vehicles."



The late Karl Davis

The guardrail and chute

Fall costs Kier £200,000

Kier North West was fined £160,000 plus £40,000 costs after labourer Karl Davis fell from the first floor while working on Everton Football Club's new training academy after a guardrail gave way on 27th February 2007. Davis died after three months in a coma.

A rubbish chute had been attached to the temporary guardrail and according to the prosecution, Kier North West's site management team had failed to ensure that it could withstand the weight of the chute and materials being thrown down it. HSE inspector Robert Hodgkinson said: "What is incredibly sad about this incident is that a man lost his life when equipment installed to make the work safer failed. Kier North West should have planned and managed the use of the rubbish chute on the site to make sure it was safe.

HSS adds apprentices

UK-based HSS Hire has introduced a technical apprenticeship scheme offering young people a practical post-school option as well as 'up-skilling' young fitters and engineers. Applicants will be offered a fully-funded three year Advanced Apprenticeship that includes mentored on-the-job training and structured residential study sessions, culminating in NVQ Levels 2 and 3 in Plant Maintenance. The apprenticeships will be available at HSS supercentre locations in the UK. The company has already recruited more than 20 apprentices, both boys and girls aged between 16 and 24, since the programme was launched in September.

Annie Hale head of HR at HSS said:

"For the past 12 months, we've offered an apprenticeship scheme as part of our Hire Alliance consortium in East London, and I'm delighted that we're now going to run something similar throughout the wider HSS business. Our apprentices will get one of the industry's most generous apprenticeship salary and benefits packages while working alongside our experienced team of fitters. They will also attend formal study sessions in order to gain a professional qualification. And of course, if they successfully complete the course, we'll guarantee them a permanent position at the end of their apprenticeship".