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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

Ladder fall costs BT £500,000

BT (British Telecom) has been fined £300,000 plus £196,150 in costs, following the death of one of its engineers, David Askew, in October 2006. Askew, 52, was installing distribution boards at London's Canonbury telephone exchange and running cabling. He was working at a height of more than four metres when he fell from a nine-step wooden ladder, sustaining a serious head injury and died 18 days later.

The HSE investigation found a number of issues including a failure to ensure the work at height was properly planned and that Askew was provided with suitable access equipment. Two wooden ladders found at the scene had not been subject to an annual inspection, contrary to BT's own health and safety policy. The company pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Nicola Maisuria, HSE inspector, said: "The fact that this incident was entirely avoidable makes Askew's death all the more tragic. The dangers posed by work at height are well known, yet BT failed to create the conditions to ensure

this task was carried out safely and that appropriate access equipment was used."

Speaking of her husband's death, Denise Askew said: "I spent over 30 happy years with my husband. He was a remarkable father and husband. What do I have to look forward to now? My husband was my past and I thought he was my future. I feel sad that he will never see two of his children get married and most of all when I see such sadness in my children's eyes when they talk of their father."



Lack of lift plan costs £15,000 +

Two contractors - Kent Road Construction and S K Sharma, trading as Fortmere Construction both of Brierley Hill, UK - were fined following an HSE prosecution resulting from an accident involving a mobile crane.

Neil Anson, a 44 year old self-employed plasterer was struck by timber roof trusses as they were being unloaded from a trailer by a mobile crane at a construction site in Bilston in June last year. Anson was climbing down from the trailer when several packs of the roof trusses fell on him, severely fracturing his right leg, elbow, hand and thumb. A dozen trusses weighing around 400kg pinned him to the floor as another, larger, heavier pack fell towards the stricken man. Fortunately the pack hit a road sign that prevented it landing on him.

Kent admitted breaching LOLER regulations and was fined £6,000 plus £4,496 in costs, while Sharma pleaded guilty to breaching the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations and received a £4,000 fine with £899 of costs.

HSE inspector Martin Overstall said: "Anson received very serious injuries as a result of this incident and had the falling timber hit his head, he would almost certainly have died. This case should remind companies managing construction sites and directing cranes to ensure all operators are properly trained and competent to do so. The law also requires companies that hire contractors to make reasonable checks that they are competent to carry out work on a construction site."

"In this case, the contractor failed to plan, supervise and carry out a safe lifting operation. The client company had not appointed a co-ordinator, one of whose roles would have been to advise the client on the competence of the contractor."

c&a

training



David Shipman of AFI at this year's IPAF Summit

AFI directors achieve high scores

AFI-Uplift's senior management team achieved one of the highest group scores ever recorded by their Chubb instructor during an IOSH health and safety course. AFI managing director David Shipman and two other senior managers led the way, each scoring 100 per cent, with the remaining eight members of the team also all achieving high scores. The success follows Shipman's call at the IPAF Summit for the industry to do more to promote the safety benefits of powered access.

The managers also joined the sales team for an intensive five-day training programme which included the IPAF operator training and MEWPs for Managers course. Austin Baker, AFI health, safety, environment and quality director, said: "The participation of our senior managers in both courses is a further example of our commitment to health and safety. A total of 48 AFI personnel took part in the five day training programme, a significant investment in this area."



Who trained him then?

This is a classic case of combining two pieces of equipment when neither is up to the job. The location - a Sago Internet Business Center in Florida or Georgia.