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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

# Telehandler blindspot causes injury

An Exeter-based company in the UK - Leese's Ltd - has been hit with fines and costs totalling more than £5,300 following an accident at its Kenbury Wood Waste Management Centre.

Andrew Grist was dumping waste when a telehandler reversed into him almost severing a toe, ripping his calf muscle and breaking bones in his leg. The company was fined £4,500 and ordered to pay £818 costs.

The court was told that the machine had a blind-spot for which no device - such as a reversing camera or additional rear view mirrors - was fitted. By law, site operators are required to ensure drivers of such

vehicles have all-round visibility.

Grist was sitting in his truck as the load was being removed. He believed he had been given a "thumbs-up" sign from the operator unloading him, meaning he could leave. He climbed out of his vehicle to close the sides and back of his truck and was hit by the telehandler. Leese's had pleaded guilty to breaching the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations.



## Fatal fall costs roofer £6,200

A roofer has been fined after a man fell to his death in Leicester in March 2010. Landlord Trevor Hall, 65, died after falling around 3.5 metres through a fragile rooflight at premises he owned. He had gone onto the roof to observe Kristian Varnam, a director of Roofwise (UK) Ltd, whom Hall had asked to quote for repairs.

The roof was made of fragile asbestos cement sheets and clear plastic rooflights, but Varnam took no reasonable steps to ensure his safety or that of others in going on to the roof. The investigation also found he had failed to inform the building's tenants.

Varnam, of Saunderson Road, Stocking Farm Estate, Leicester, pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act and was fined £3,500 with £2,742 costs. HSE inspector Sam Russell said: "This tragic incident was avoidable. As a professional roofing contractor, Varnam should have been aware of the dangers and used appropriate equipment available to him - such as crawler boards - to safely carry out his assessment. Instead he put his own life in danger and that of Hall. In addition, no efforts were made to inform staff in the workplace below that people were on the fragile roof, or to put in place appropriate precautions for their safety. It is crucial that employers and individuals make sure work is properly planned, appropriately supervised and that sufficient measures are put in place to protect staff and members of the public from the risks."



The roof after the incident

## £20,600 for lack of safety equipment

SPV Road Carpet Ltd of Walsall has been charged £20,659 in fines and costs after three roofers were spotted in May 2009 by a passing HSE inspector working on top of a Nottingham cash and carry store without any safety equipment.

SPV employee Lewis Male, was also prosecuted for failing to take reasonable care of himself and others and fined £480 plus costs of £650.

Male was replacing sky lights with two others on the roof when he was spotted. The inspector noticed the workers were using no safety equipment, edge protection or

harnesses to prevent falls. It was discovered this unsafe system of work had continued over a period of three weeks, risking injury to the roofers and to employees and customers inside the store.

HSE inspector Frances Bailey said: "Roofing work requires careful planning and assessment of the risks involved. In this case employees had been working for three weeks without the correct equipment to protect them from falls and without adequate supervision. Fortunately no one was injured on this occasion, but both employees and members of the public inside the store below were at risk."

## Who Trained him then?

Spotted in Concepcion, Chile - seven men, truck, scissor lift, backhoe loader and clearly no proper training on the correct use of an aerial lift.



# Scaffold hit by bus

Self-employed Mario Mazarella fell more than four metres to the ground after a scaffold he was working on was hit by a bus in November 2009.

The scaffold - built for him by Panther Scaffolding at the Helal Restaurant on Mercer Row in Louth - had been built out over the road. Andrew Mark Judge, 44, trading as Panther Scaffolding of Old Main Road, Scamblesby, Louth was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) for failing to ensure that the workers who erected the scaffolding the day before worked in a safe way and that the finished scaffolding was a safe structure for its user and vehicles moving

through the town.

HSE inspector Martin Giles said: "The scaffolding should have been erected in a safe manner, and the finished scaffold should not have jutted out over the road at a height where it could be a danger to passing traffic. The failure to provide adequate scaffolding was caused by inadequate planning before work started and a failure to check that the finished scaffold was safe before handing it over."

Mr Judge pleaded guilty to breaching the Work At Height Regulations 2005, and was fined £15,000 and ordered to pay £3,739 costs.

## HCEA scholarships



Erik Zirkle

The Historical Construction Equipment Association (HCEA), a not for profit organisation dedicated to preserving the history of the construction, dredging and surface mining equipment industries, has announced two recipients of its 2011 \$1,000 engineering scholarship. Erik F. Zirkle of Lebanon, Ohio, is enrolled at the University of Cincinnati, and Eric Salter of Jasonville, Indiana, is enrolled at the Rose-Hullman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The scholarships are awarded annually and funded by a grant of \$75,000 by the Ruth St. John and John D. West Foundation of Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

The HCEA was founded in 1986 and has over 4,300 members in twenty-five countries. In addition to its magazine and hosting an annual working exhibition of restored equipment, it operates the National Construction Equipment Museum and archives in Bowling Green, Ohio.



Eric Salter



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