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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.

Fatal crane overturn costs director £98,000

Benjamin Lee, 36 of Preston, the managing director of Siteweld Construction, which has ceased trading, pleaded guilty to breaching the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). He was fined £80,000 plus £18,495 of costs for the offence which resulted in the death of Mark Thornton, 46, when a 50 tonne All-Terrain crane, owned and operated by Bryn Thomas crane hire, overturned while lifting a steel column for a warehouse extension at Wavertree Business Park, Liverpool on 29th March 2007.

Siteweld Construction and Lee, along with Bryn Thomas Crane hire and the operator, Frederick Scott, were prosecuted by the Health & Safety Executive for failing to make sure the work was planned and carried out safely. The crane had attempted to lift the six tonne column at a radius of almost 18 metres, well outside its

load chart. The HSE investigation found the crane had not been properly maintained and the external alarm could not be heard by those working nearby. The load moment limiter override switches were also faulty. Siteweld Construction pleaded guilty to the same offence and received a nominal fine of £50



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with no costs since it has ceased trading. In April Bryn Thomas Crane hire was fined £4,500 with no costs due to it being in administration, while the operator Scott was fined £2,500 with no costs. So far the directors of Bryn Thomas have not been charged. They resumed business with most of the same cranes and the same trading name. Sarah Wadham, the investigating inspector said: "It is tragic that Mr Thornton died because a series

of health and safety warnings and procedures were ignored. The crane was simply not capable of lifting the column, when it was nearly 18 metres away, without it being overloaded.

"If the work had been properly planned, and the crane had been properly maintained, then Mr Thornton would still be alive today. It is vital construction companies learn from this case to prevent similar deaths in the future."

Niftylift and Denbigh school go platinum...again

Denbigh School of Milton Keynes and Niftylift have won the BA Crest Gold Award & Excitec Platinum Award for the sixth year running for their latest Engineering Education Scheme (EES) project, completed by this year's Denbigh student team.

The AS level students from Denbigh spend over 100 hours of practical research on the project, which is comparable to a level one degree standard. This year's project was to design a machine validation rig for use with Niftylift's self-propelled products to enhance the current Pre-Delivery Inspection process whilst reducing the man-hours and environmental impact of the testing. The rig was designed to accommodate all models from the HR12 to HR21 and simulate the operational conditions that the machines are exposed to during use, to ensure no issues are present in the machine's hydraulic and transmission system. The team achieved this by incorporating both a rolling road and vibration pads into the rig.



Lack of a Loler inspection costs £18,000

City & County Signs Ltd of Market Place, Bingham, Nottinghamshire was fined £10,000 plus costs of £8,032 following a structural failure of a van mounted lift that had not been subjected to a six month Loler inspection.

As a result a 44 year-old employee, using the platform to remove a sign was tipped out of the platform when a platform levelling rod broke. Although the man only fell 1.5 metres, it was enough to break his neck and he was off work for nine weeks.

HSE inspector Lorna Sherlock said: "There is a legal requirement for all employers who use lifting equipment to ensure they have it thoroughly examined by a competent person every six months. Had the company done this the cracks in the levelling rod would have been identified and repaired and this incident avoided. Instead, a worker suffered some nasty injuries which could have easily been much worse".

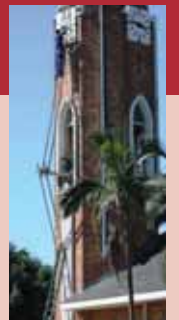
Who Trained him then?

Go to page 67 for more pictures

Rarely a day goes by when we do not receive some sort of Death Wish photo highlighting ignorance of bad practice while lifting or working at height. There are now over 230

examples on Vertikal.net. As it is the end of a year, we though we might highlight some of the worst cases... perhaps you can let us know which you feel is the worst and why? A copy of Denis

Ashworth's book – going up in the World – worth £20 goes to be best three entries. In the meantime here is our pick. Go to www.vertikal.net and put 'Death Wish' in the search box to view all 230.



Dear Leigh,

Please have a look at the attached article, it is a major publicity from the Health and Safety Board of Québec called CSST made two to three years ago and they sent this everywhere so people are aware of the problem. If you look at the picture 001 and expend the picture pay attention at the base of the lift cylinder and you will be capable to see that the anchor plate where the scissor stack is connected as broke off from the base structure.

We also had a few accidents one with a boom over 100ft about four to five years ago and the unit was working sideways and the centre pivot pin on the undercarriage broke and the unit flipped over a building killing the person. If I am not mistaken – the unit was almost at its maximum height. Same thing with another boom up in the Sept-iles region of Québec when a pin from a boom cylinder snapped and the person died from this accident. This is the reason why the CSA (Canadian regulation) did implement the regulation mentioned on my previous email. There is a cost to inspection but I believe it is still cheaper than losing a person's life.

That regulation is really strict and has the law behind it so the owner or the person responsible for the machine will be prosecuted for a criminal act that can result in a jail sentence. Until a few years ago it was impossible to sue a person but now it is more strict and people do think twice. Under the Government of Canada the CSA is to mandate for each province to follow the rules and the inspector of the province has full authority to seal a machine and issue a fine, and not a \$50 one - rather thousands of dollars.

It is really strict and I believe other countries should follow

the same principal – we are talking about peoples life here and not a sand bag.

The article referred to is a Canadian safety warning regarding a structural failure on a number of scissor lifts, some of which caused fatalities or serious injuries. It says that in all cases the accidents were due to poor or non-existent maintenance and inspections. It warns owners that it is a legal requirement to carry out regular inspections and maintenance as per the manufacturers' recommendations. It then gives an example of the regular checks required, daily, every 200 hours and once a year.

It also highlights the legal requirement to have all platforms thoroughly inspected by a qualified engineer after 10 years of service and then every five years thereafter or after a serious incident or sale.

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Death Wish 2011

Here are a few selections from our Death Wish series.....

All have been sent in by our eagle eyed readers during 2011. You can win a copy of the book *Going up in the World* by Denis Ashworth by sending us your views explaining which of the photographs here is the best example of a Death Wish.

Send all entries to The Vertikal Press, box 4998, Brackley, NN13 5WY, UK or in Germany to Vertikal Verlag, Sundgaullee 15, Freiburg D-79114

