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Loader crane incident costs scaffold company £95,000

Spectra Scaffolding of Warth Road Industrial Estate, Bury, England, has been fined £40,000 plus £45,000 costs following a loader crane accident in November 2008.



A broken latch can be fatal

David Collins, 31, a father of two suffered severe injuries to his head, back and leg and is now a paraplegic. Collins was unloading a bundle of seven metre long scaffold tubes at a shop refurbishment job in Stoke-on-Trent. As he lifted the tubes, a sling became detached from the crane's hook, causing the 1.5 tonne bundle to fall on him as he stood under the load.

An investigation revealed that the safety catch on the hook was faulty. Although the company was

aware of it, it had not taken any steps to replace it. In addition Collins had not been properly trained and was unaware of its importance and the routine-type lift had not been properly planned.

HSE inspector Lindsay Hope said: "As a result of this incident Collins has been severely disabled and could easily have been killed. Companies that operate lorry mounted cranes must ensure their operators undertake appropriate, recognised training in all aspects. They must be competent to use the equipment properly and plan safe lifting in variable site conditions. This lift wasn't properly planned or supervised and Collins hadn't been sufficiently trained in how to use the crane and slings. Furthermore, the equipment had not been properly maintained and should never have been used."

Help for NEETs

UK rental company Hewden is supporting the charity Street League which works with 16 to 25 year olds not in employment, education or training as well as young offenders and substance misusers, engaging them in structured football and education programmes, helping them get into work, mainstream education or training. Hewden provides mentors and work experience for those looking to pursue a career in construction.



A Hewden team, pictured with footballer Chris Makin, took part in a 5-a-side tournament at the launch of Street League Manchester

Fatal fall costs £126,000

An overhead crane company and a manufacturer of rubber surfaces have been fined a total of £100,000 plus costs following a fatal incident involving a four metre fall from a fork lift truck in June 2006.



Martin Denton

Millennium Rubber of Pott Shrigley, Macclesfield - which produces rubber surfaces for running tracks and playgrounds - was fined £90,000 plus £21,411 of costs while crane company United Crane Services of Sheffield was fined £10,000 plus costs of £5,000, following the death of Martin Denton, 60, an employee of United Crane.

Denton was working on one of Millennium Rubber's overhead cranes from a stillage on a forklift, at a height of around four metres, when it slipped off the forks

dropping him to the concrete floor. He suffered serious head injuries and was taken to hospital where he died later that day.

An investigation found that lifting workers in stillages was standard practice at Millennium Rubber in spite of its dangers. Both companies admitted breaches of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

HSE inspector Tanya Stewart added: "Denton died because neither company followed basic health and safety procedures for working at height. He should never have been expected to stand in a stillage balanced dangerously on the forks of a forklift truck. The companies simply did not consider the risks he might face carrying out the work in this way. They should have ensured a safe system for the work was in place before allowing him to start."

"It's disgraceful that the practice of lifting workers on forklift trucks had taken place on many other occasions. Sadly, it was therefore almost inevitable that someone would be seriously injured or killed."

Who trained him then?



This one from New Zealand speaks for itself. For more views go to: www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/14016/ or put 'barefoot roof' in the search box