

# Are your staff properly trained?

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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](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing



Students on a practical fault finding session

## Find the fault

Instant Training has devised a new training course, 'Fault finding for hydraulic work platforms' aimed at helping powered access engineers spot faults quickly using a logical process. The course can be tailored to suit specific machines in a fleet.

"A certain amount of time and money can easily be wasted unless a problem is diagnosed quickly and accurately," says senior instructor Dale Downes. "It is all too easy to replace a part but this can sometimes be a 'quick fix' and not the solution."

"Our approach is show how to analyse the underlying cause of a problem so that it can be put right first time and our course offers a definitive road map to troubleshooting."

The two day course includes a day on hydraulics and a day on electrical fault finding. Participants undergo rigorous theory tests on both days and providing they complete all modules to the course manager's satisfaction, they will receive a certificate of successful completion.

Andy Gilbert, operations manager for The Platform Company said, "We've been very impressed with this course, our engineers have benefited tremendously, the strictly analytical approach towards fault finding means the job gets done first time around."

## Who trained the operator?

This scissor lift was spotted in a street in Spain. Clearly the operator thought he had done a magnificent job in levelling the machine for work. Obviously he had little or no training on shoring up and levelling!

Who showed this man how to level up?



C&a

training

## Lack of training costs £157,000

Two companies, three managers and a developer were fined a total of £94,000 with £53,000 in costs at Manchester's Crown Court following the death of an untrained demolition worker in September 2002. David Moran fell eight metres to his death when he fell through a roof light in Warrington. Moran and co-worker Anthony Harris were using the roof to access another roof on the site whilst working for Elmsgold Haulage.

Elmsgold Haulage was fined £20,000 plus £10,000 in costs after pleading guilty to two charges under the Health and Safety at Work Act. The firm's director John McSweeney was fined £5,000 with £5,000 costs while site foreman Dennis O'Connor was fined £2,500 with £2,500 costs. Demolition contractor Excavation and Contracting was fined £35,000 plus £10,000 costs and its former managing director Bernard O'Sullivan, now living in Australia, was fined £20,000 plus £30,000 costs. John Edge of property management partnership Knight Frank was fined £7,000 and £4,500 costs at an early hearing.

HSE inspector Nic Rigby said: "The tragic death of David Moran, an untrained and unskilled labourer, on only his second day working in the industry simply should not have happened. This case, which involves the prosecution of two managing directors, a planning supervisor, two demolition companies and a site foreman, must send a strong message to those at all levels of the industry, from the board room to the shop floor, that if they fail to exercise the responsibilities that the law places upon them, no matter who they are in the structure of the project, they will be held to account for those failings."

## Man fined for bad practice

David Clark, a self employed builder from East Tytherton in Wiltshire, was found guilty at Chippenham Magistrates Courts for contravening the Working at Height regulations and was fined £2,000 with costs of £1,500. Construction inspectors from the Bristol HSE office brought the case against Clark after inspecting construction activities at Hare Street Farm in Chippenham, where he and two men he had employed were erecting a farm building. Inspectors found that none of the safety measures required for working at height, such as netting and barriers, had been put in place. HSE Principal Construction Inspector, Andrew Kingscott, said "The construction industry should be aware that where HSE Inspectors identify that standards on site fall well short of those required then, in addition to stopping the work, we can also prosecute. We are not prepared to wait for an injury to occur before taking action. This initiative of proactive, risk-led prosecutions means cases can be brought to court more quickly. I believe we will see more of this style of enforcement in the future."

## Talk about bad practice!

When it comes to putting people into a job for which they have not been trained it is usually the minor slip-ups that are the cause of most accidents. But most of them come from the fact that people think they can get away with taking a risk, "It wont happen to me syndrome" Occassionally though you come across some for whom it is almost beyond imagination. Here are a couple of examples we have been sent.



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