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£17,500 for telehandler pallet fall

Steel erector Reid Engineering (Cookstown) of Stewartstown Co Tyrone, Northern Ireland was fined £17,500 plus unspecified prosecution costs, after a schoolboy on work experience fell almost eight metres from a pallet on the forks of a telehandler.

The incident occurred in May 2011 at a construction site at Lisnaskea Co Fermanagh when the boy, along with three other workers, was lifted on an open pallet to gain access to an eight metre high roof. As they approached the roof he fell off and was injured.

HSENI inspector Kevin Campbell said: "Where work at height is planned, appropriate measures must be put in place to allow the workers to access that area, and suitable measures to prevent them falling while working."

Tower crane incident costs Bowmer & Kirkland £480,000

Major UK contractor Bowmer & Kirkland was fined £280,000 and ordered to pay almost £200,000 in costs, following the collapse of a tower crane at Chandlers Wharf in Liverpool in 2009, which permanently disabled the crane operator Iain Gillham, 55. Liverpool based structural engineer Bingham Davis was also found guilty but fined a nominal £1,000 as it is now in liquidation otherwise it would have been £400,000.

The investigating HSE inspector Warren Pennington said: "During construction of the foundation, Bingham Davis advised Bowmer & Kirkland to cut away essential steel reinforcing bars in the foundation piles and replace them with steel rods. This resulted in the foundation being too weak to support the crane. The foundation was further weakened when Bowmer & Kirkland failed to ensure the adequate insertion of the steel rods. Neither company did enough to check the implication of this change. More on this on www.Vertikal.net



Who trained him then?

A self-propelled boom lift being used to carry out work at the 16th century St Michael's Church in Roxwell, Essex, England, plunged into a grave, or the church crypt last month. Thankfully no one was hurt and the seven tonne machine was recovered with airbags and a winch. Ground conditions are the primary cause of crane and lift accidents - here we have grass and the certainty of underground voids! It is hard to believe that a trained operator was at the controls.



C&a

training

\$5,000 for fatal crane overturn

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined Trucano Construction Company \$5,000 following the death last year of crane operator Boyd Cody, 75, after his crawler crane overturned in Juneau, Alaska. The company was cited for failing to properly secure the crane, a P&H 535, to the barge it was to work from before it overturned and crushed Cody. The citation said that the loading of the crane onto the barge affected its stability and lifting capacity. It was also cited for failing to provide formal training on the hazards of loading and unloading materials on barges afloat and failure to ensure load charts were modified to ensure safe lifts could be accomplished on the crane.

Company owner Douglas Trucano claimed that the incident was Cody's fault and that his only error was allowing him to continue working at 75. Trucano agreed to correct the violations and paid a fine of \$5,000, after OSHA had reduced it from \$11,400. He also agreed to hold regular, documented safety meetings for employees and to add OSHA's Compliance Guide for Cranes and Derricks in Construction to the safety programme binder provided to employees.



First Terex Cranes Scholarship

The Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association's Foundation has announced the first recipient of the Terex Continuing Education Scholarship. The \$3,000 donation was awarded to Lee Rucker, who plans to attend Lindenwood University, Saint Charles, Missouri for a masters degree course in electrical engineering.

The Terex scholarship, funded by a \$21,000 grant from the company, is intended to help fund bachelor/masters degree students studying in fields related to the specialised carriers and rigging industry. It is an extension to the SC&R Foundation's existing programme, which has issued \$300,000 in grants and scholarships over the past 25 years to help advance the education of SC&RA member company employees and family members.

"The SC&RA is one of the cornerstones of our industry's future," said Frank Bardonaro, vice president of global sales at Terex Cranes. "Its commitment to education is both essential and unique. We are particularly proud to support the SC&RA in bringing the qualified people that the future success of our highly specialised sector depends on."