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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.

Fall costs over £37,000

Beef supplier Dovecote Park Ltd of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, has been fined after a maintenance engineer fractured his spine and heel bone after falling from about three metres when working at height at its abattoir in Skellingthorpe, Lincoln, UK last July.

The man, who may never fully recover from the injuries, was replacing light fittings in a large chiller using a stepladder set on top of a wooden board spanning metal rafters. He and a colleague had reached the rafters using an aerial work platform however during the job the board gave way causing the engineer to fall to the ground. His colleague managed to grab onto one of the rafters and make his way back into the lift.

The man was unable to work for a number of months and although he returned to work he found he was unable to carry out the job he was doing because of his injuries and subsequently resigned from his post. The Health and Safety Executive said that the work had not been properly planned, supervised or carried out in a safe manner. Although the company was using an aerial lift, it wasn't suitable for the task because it wasn't tall enough to reach the light fittings.

Dovecote Park pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 4(1) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The company was fined £25,000 and ordered to pay costs of £12,361. HSE inspector Scott Wynne said: "The activity should have been subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, which would have identified the precautions needed to carry out the task safely, including selecting appropriate access equipment. The company simply instructed this individual to carry out the task and left him to his own devices. The resulting injuries were life changing."

Poor scaffolding costs £33,000

Two companies, Potteries Demolition - a principal contractor on the Stoke City Council scheme to demolish 15 houses and a pub - and Jacko's Scaffolding have been fined for their part in a major scaffold collapse in Hanley, UK on 30th April 2011, when 70 metres of sheeted scaffold peeled away from the houses and landed on parked cars. Amazingly no-one was near the scaffold when it collapsed although parked cars were damaged and a street lamp destroyed.

A Health and Safety Executive investigation found the scaffold had not been built to an appropriate design and was not sufficiently secured to the houses. Jacko originally provided a basic scaffold for roof tile removal, however the scaffold had to be altered and used as a work platform to demolish the front upper walls of the buildings. This needed to be a bespoke design, as it could be vulnerable to collapse.

HSE inspector Andrew Bowker said: "It was sheer good luck that no-one was hurt. This incident was caused by a catalogue of serious failings by both companies. The failure to construct the scaffold to a suitable design for the work meant that the scaffold ultimately could not withstand the effects of wind loading as the upper walls of the building were demolished and first floor anchor ties were removed. Principal contractor Potteries Demolition failed to effectively co-ordinate, plan and manage the demolition sequence to ensure the scaffold safety was not compromised. They failed to ensure it was constructed to a suitable bespoke design and failed to inspect the scaffold and removed anchor ties during the demolition sequence ignoring written instructions on the scaffold handover certificate not to do so. Jacko failed to inform Potteries Demolition that the sheeted scaffold they handed over was not adequately tied for the façade demolition to start. Both companies failed to ensure that the anchor ties that were fitted were suitably tested."

Jacko's Scaffolding was fined £5,000 plus costs of £2,992, while Potteries Demolition Company was fined £13,320 plus costs of £11,967.

DLR Equipment Days

The association for distributors, rental and service companies in France - DLR - has organised a series of open days for material handling and public works equipment in conjunction with ASDM and the ministry of Education in order to introduce children and students to the construction equipment world. The event entitled Journées Du Matériel de travaux publics et de manutention was held in June in Saint Herblain, near Nantes.



Apprentice takes award

Mark Taylor of Easi UpLifts has won the Access Apprentice of the Year award from the UK's National Construction College. Taylor joined the Easi UpLifts' Banbury depot in 2010. "Mark has been a valued employee at our Banbury depot," the company said. "He is a talented individual with a bright future ahead of him. He is always willing to help and has shown great dedication to his work."

\$10,000 for fatal lack of training

The Indiana Department of Labor issued \$10,000 in penalties against Walsh Construction following an accident in April that led to the death of Roger Cox, 50. Cox was working from an aerial lift on the temporary ramp of a bridge when he fell and was pinned between the lift and the bridge. He died in hospital three days later. According to the IOSHA report, there were two violations that warranted fines of \$5,000 each.

Snorkel adds apprentices

Aerial lift manufacturer Snorkel is extending its apprenticeship programme in the UK. The company took on two apprentices - Chloe Palmer and Dan Ross - for its purchasing and stores departments in 2011 and is looking to add two more, starting this month. Palmer, 17, said: "I really prefer the more hands-on approach of an apprenticeship to being in a classroom. It has made me more confident in my general life and improved my communication and language skills. Earning while you learn is also a real benefit."

Sharon Hutchinson, senior buyer at Snorkel said: "Apprentices like Chloe and Dan add real value to our business. Bringing in bright young people at this level is a great investment in our workforce, both now and for the future."



Girls Exploring Engineering

JLG has sponsored a week long engineering course for girls at Hagerstown Community College in Maryland, USA. The company gave \$2,310 to cover the tuition of 14 girls aged between nine and 14 to participate in the course entitled "Girls Exploring Engineering". During the course the girls were introduced to elements of civil, mechanical, electrical and environmental engineering. As well as participating in hands-on projects they also heard from four female JLG engineers, including chief engineer Joan LaSalle, senior engineer April Tran, design engineer Cathy Martin, and a Hagerstown Community College alumna Megan Schultz who is now a design engineer.

Who trained him then?

Spotted at a trade show: A man working from a step ladder on a first floor balcony to reach the upper roof overhang. He did at least have a ladder holder, but aerial lifts were plentiful and would have been much faster and safer.

