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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.

Shock costs \$80,000

AVO-Plus of Tauranga, New Zealand, was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay reparation of \$75,000 after an employee suffered major burns from an electric shock, while using an aerial lift to pick avocados last October. The victim, who was not named, was using a 6.4 metre work platform to pick the last pocket of avocados that were high in the tree. He touched an overhead power line and received major electrical and flame burns over 50 percent of his body.



Ona de Rooy of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment said: "This terrible accident serves as a warning for employers and their employees who are tasked with carrying out work close to overhead power lines. There is no room for complacency. This accident could have been avoided if the correct equipment for the job was used and correct safety procedures were followed. AVO-Plus should have identified an exclusion zone of trees under and adjacent to the power lines, ensured employees wore

harnesses while operating the lifts, identified and adequately monitored a clear rule that no avocados were allowed to be picked within the four metre minimum distance limit and ensured employees were adequately supervised by a trained spotter to ensure they did not encroach the limit."

Scaffold tower fall

CME Ceilings Ltd of Broad Green, Liverpool has been fined £5,000 plus £5,000 in costs after pleading guilty following a 43 year old employee who fell from a scaffold tower at the Croxteth Sports and Wellbeing Centre.

The man, who has asked not to be named, suffered a brain haemorrhage, fractured skull, collapsed lung, broken collar bone, ribs, wrist and fingers in the incident on 18th January 2011. He spent two weeks in intensive care and his brain injury has had a long-term impact on his personality. The Health & Safety Executive prosecuted the company after an investigation found the scaffolding tower that the company provided was unsafe. The company had been hired to install a suspended ceiling at the centre and had originally intended to use a scissor lift. It did not arrange for the equipment to be delivered to the site and so used the tower instead. The brakes on the tower had not been applied and there was no edge protection around the work platform. As a result the man fell more than two metres to the concrete floor below after the tower started to move while he was working.

The investigation found the tower had been made up of parts from several different manufacturers, all of which were in a poor or damaged condition. HSE inspector Mark Baker said: "This man has suffered severe physical and mental injuries that will affect him for the rest of his life.

The scaffold tower the company provided simply wasn't up to the job and his life was put in danger the minute he started to climb it. This case should act as a warning to firms not to cut corners and to make sure they use the right equipment for the job they're doing."



This faulty tower has left a man with permanent injuries

Overturned scissor

Two UK companies have been fined after a man died when a scissor lift overturned. The man, Martin McMenemy aged 52, was working for O. Turner Insulation Ltd of Grimsby on a new food processing plant installation in Ratby Lane, Leicester on April 12th 2008. He was using the scissor lift to install wall and ceiling panels when he inadvertently drove it, while elevated, into a shallow uncovered pit in the floor. The lift overturned and he was thrown to the floor.

A Health & Safety Executive investigation found that Turner and principal contractor Clegg Food Projects Ltd, of Nottingham, had failed to take precautions to cover or cordon off the hole. Both companies pleaded guilty, Turner was fined £22,500 with £12,806 costs, while Clegg Food was fined £22,500 with £12,674 costs.

HSE Inspector Stephen Farthing said: "This was an entirely preventable tragedy. A family has been left without a father because simple precautions were not taken to eliminate an obvious hazard. Both companies had a duty to plan, manage and monitor the work being carried out under their control, but failed in that duty."

Who trained him then?



A man in Vlissingen, the Netherlands combines his ladder with a 20ft narrow aisle scissor to reach a window. When the photographer explained the risks of overturning the scissor by his make do methods he responded that he was being very careful!