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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.



The overturned crane

## Unplanned lift costs £50,000

UK-based South Coast Crane Hire Ltd and principal contractor JR Pickstock Ltd have each been fined £10,000 plus £14,917 in costs and charged with a serious failure in communications, following the overturn of an 80 tonne All Terrain crane.

Neither was sure if the job was a crane hire or a contract lift and neither carried out any proper planning or supervision. One of the crane's rear outriggers sank into the ground causing the overturn. Thankfully no one was hurt, but the crane's 50 metre boom narrowly missed several people and a busy road at the nursing home site in Gillingham. The investigation found that the lift was unsafe in that there was no competent person, no lift plan and no consideration given to key information, such as the weight of the load and ground conditions.

The HSE said that a larger crane should have been used along with larger ground mats. The contract did not meet industry guidance, which clearly states that a competent person should be appointed to plan the lift, with the crane rental company providing the person for a contract lift or the contractor on a straight crane hire. Either way South Coast Crane should have ensured this happened when it booked the job. A lift plan should have been drawn-up by the competent person and communicated to those involved in the work. The principal contractor should also have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the construction phase plan identified risks to health and safety and included measures to address risks.

HSE inspector Kathy Gostick said: "This incident could have led to death and serious injury and was a direct result of a catalogue of failures by the two companies. Had it been clearly established who was responsible for planning the lift when the crane was ordered, it is highly unlikely that it would have overturned putting people on site and in the road at unnecessary risk."

## Horizon goes PAL+

Horizon Platforms is the latest UK company to offer PAL+ training and has put its sales force through the course. The company has installed a permanent wall mounted practical test apparatus at its West Yorkshire training facility.

Mick Backhouse, Horizon's IPAF training instructor said: "As well as being trained to IPAF Demonstrator standard, we encourage our sales staff to operate access equipment on a regular basis. This assists them in carrying out effective site surveys, and keeps them abreast of the latest technology. Even with this level of experience they all commented on how tough the PAL+ practical session was. We were delighted to see them all pass their tests."



## Poor access at Edgbaston cricket club costs £33,000

The Parkstone Group and Galliford Try Construction were fined a combined total of £33,690 after a man fell six metres through a hole at Edgbaston cricket club. The man, Ian Howells, 33, punctured his lung, broke every rib on the left hand side of his body, shattered all the bones in his left hand and fractured his pelvis in three places after he stepped onto what he thought was a pallet covered with plastic.

He and a colleague were trying to move a heavy floor grinder on the fifth floor but were unaware that the pallet was placed on top of scaffolding and concealed a service void. The pallet gave way and sent Howells crashing to the floor below. The Health and Safety Executive found that neither company had properly assessed the risks or devised a safe system of work. There was also no safe access to the fifth floor, workers had to pull themselves through a void and then through a gap between a scaffolding guard rail.

HSE inspector Paul Thompson said: "This incident was entirely preventable. The system of work was unplanned and unsafe. Workers were not provided with a safe means by which to do their jobs, or the right equipment to help them do it. As a result Howells has suffered life-changing injuries that he will never fully recover from."

## Hi-Reach launches 100+ course

UK-based Hi-Reach Access has launched its new 'Hi-Reach 100+' course offering operators a half day training course on self-propelled boom lifts with a height of 32 metres or more.



## Who trained him then?



This is the winner of the Ladder Association's 'biggest idiot on a ladder' competition. Who, or where we do not know.