

# Tower crane rescue advice updated



The CPA's Tower Crane Interest Group has updated a Technical Information Note on the Rescue of Personnel from Tower Cranes. The revision was prompted by discussions with the Fire and Rescue Services about the levels of support that have now become available around the UK.

The new document covers the rescue of authorised persons on site, such as tower crane operators, maintenance crew, and persons carrying out thorough examinations. It does not extend to the special circumstances of rescuing non-authorised persons such as trespassers. Its primary purpose is to provide guidance on the planning of the rescue should an incident occur. Planning for emergencies is 'key' from the outset and the principal contractor is recommended to take all possible scenarios into consideration BEFORE work begins onsite.



One of key revisions in the paper is a recommendation that when the principal contractor is planning a rescue from height from a tower crane, it should 'always consult the local fire and rescue service, who may be able to assist with a specially trained crew. If this service is not available for whatever reason then the contractor needs to investigate other means of rescue and should seek the advice of the tower crane supplier.

Details of the rescue plan should be recorded in a method statement which should be specific for each type and model of crane. The plan should include details of the rescue equipment to be used; configuration of the equipment for different types of casualties, for example, walking wounded, assisted lower or stretcher rescue. The plan should also state what action is to be taken in the event of adverse weather such as high winds.

The method statement should be used to brief those who will be working at height and involved in the rescue plan. It is essential that all rescue from height on tower cranes is carried out by adequately trained and competent persons who should be available on site at all times when rescue may be required.

Initial training, which should include pre-use checks of equipment, should be carried out by the supplier of the system to be used, or by in-house trainers who have been trained and assessed by the system supplier. Trainees should be assessed using practical exercises, as well as theory sessions and advised to undertake a simulated rescue on-site to confirm that the training has been understood. It is also essential that rescuers receive refresher training and reassessment at suitable intervals to ensure that their skills are maintained at an



appropriate level.

The revised versions of Rescue of Personnel from Height on Tower Cranes published by the CPA on behalf of the Tower Crane Interest Group, are available to download from the CPA website at [www.cpa.uk.net](http://www.cpa.uk.net) free of charge.



## Minton moves up

In April Kevin Minton was appointed a director of the CPA, reporting to chief executive Colin Wood and the CPA's governing council. Minton has been a senior manager at the CPA for five years, during which time he has been involved in the full range of CPA activities, with a special emphasis on health & safety issues and representing the CPA to other bodies.

He was instrumental in forming the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group in 2009, and since then has co-ordinated its activity, most recently chairing the working group behind the new Good Practice Guide on Medical Fitness for Plant Operators. His new role will see him taking on a bigger role within the organisation and reinforcing his liaison work with government bodies and industry associations. Minton is also chairman of the European Rental Association's Safety and Sustainability Committee and is actively involved in the Lighthouse Club as chairman of the Midlands Branch.

"I am looking forward to expanding my role at the CPA and getting more closely involved with the



Kevin Minton

industry," said Minton "The forthcoming Vertical Days exhibition will be the perfect opportunity to meet with members. I am always interested in what our members have to say, my job is as much about listening, as it is talking."

"Kevin has a wealth of experience working for trade associations in the plant hire sector. He has been with the CPA for over five years now, in a senior management position, having spent almost 20 years with the HAE before that. I look forward to working with him in his new role," added Wood.

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The Construction Plant-Hire Association - the CPA - is among other things, the UK's crane association and one of the more active members of ESTA, the European crane and heavy transport association.