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Tower Week creates a buzz

With its emphasis on safety and best practice, PASMA Tower Week was promoted as a major, first-time event in the work at height sector.

Delivered nationally by trade body PASMA and its member organisations, and supported by Working Well Together (WWT), the event saw mobile access towers take centre stage through a series of online interviews and presentations, alongside regional displays and demonstrations as well as tower surgeries and health checks. At its peak the Tower Week website attracted over 1,000 visitors a day and during the period of the campaign hundreds of existing and potential users requested PASMA's free Tower Fact Pack.

PASMA's managing director, Peter Bennett, said: "By providing a range of free resources our principal aim was to promote tower safety. However, we also wanted to demonstrate the benefits of towers in a growing number of different sectors, and to use the campaign to provide a snapshot of current tower use to inform future safety-led initiatives and projects. The images and information we received as a result of Tower Week will prove invaluable."



Events around the country

Around the country PASMA members organised a series of well-attended practical events designed to reinforce the need to only use mobile towers which are certified to product standard EN1004 (BS EN1004 in the UK), and ones that can be assembled and dismantled using either of the two recognised safe methods - Through the Trap

(3T) or Advanced Guardrail (AGR). Members also focused on the flexibility, strength and lightness of towers, with particular reference to bridging, façade, stepped, high level and cantilever structures. Not surprisingly, PASMA training featured strongly at a number of venues through training tasters and panel discussions.

"Basic safety standards not met on 1,105 sites"

A popular start to Tower Week was an exclusive interview with Justine Lee, a health and safety inspector in Health & Safety Executive's construction sector team, who discussed the findings of this year's two 'Safer Sites' initiatives which targeted the refurbishment, repair and maintenance sectors.

During the September inspection initiative, a total of 2,607 unannounced site inspections revealed that basic safety standards were not being met on 1,105 sites. Significantly, one of the three most common problems identified was a failure to protect workers while working at height.

Other digital events during the course of the week included a talk by PASMA's technical director, Don Aers, on the diversity, advantages and potential of access towers.

Aers also gave a talk on essential points to consider when buying, owning and looking after a mobile access tower. An additional talk featured PASMA's new PAS 250 product specification, designed to protect users of low-level access equipment such as podiums and pulpits. The specification covers all low-level work platforms with a maximum platform height of less than 2.5 metres for use by one person with one working platform and side protection.

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Tower Fact Packs

Anyone requiring a Tower Fact Pack should visit towerweek.pasma.org.uk - the packs are free of charge while stocks last. Each pack contains new material created specifically for the campaign, together with handy-sized pocket cards giving guidance on assembling, moving and dismantling mobile access towers, and the mandatory requirement for recording tower inspections. A free desktop tower is also available.



Promoting the advantages, diversity and potential of towers at Tower Week

Advice on assembling, moving and dismantling towers



As a PASMA member, if you have an interesting or unusual story to tell about towers and tower training, please send it to michael.fern@pasma.co.uk