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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 incident occurred at the Broomfield Hospital in Essex

Fatality costs firm £255,000

Bouygues UK has been fined £175,000 plus costs of £80,000 after banksman Guilherme de Oliveira, 44, died during a lifting operation in strong winds at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford in November 2008.

Oliveira and another banksman were tasked with unhooking the lifting chains from concrete beams being lifted by a tower crane and placed between two supporting towers. As the weather deteriorated and wind speeds increased to more than 72 kph, one of the beams was caught by the wind causing the crane's slew brake to slip as the crane weathervaned. Oliveira was attempting to disconnect the chains from the beam at the time and was crushed between the beam and adjacent tower, sustaining fatal injuries.

The HSE investigation found that although the tower crane had been fitted with a wind speed sensor, providing data to the operator and the managers supervising lifting operations, it was not being monitored at the time of the incident. It concluded that there was inadequate planning and supervision of the work and that had a suitable management procedure been in place and followed, the deteriorating weather conditions could have been assessed and a determination made whether to take the tower crane out of operation or not.

HSE inspector Dominic Elliss, said: "Although the judge was not satisfied that the company's failings were a direct cause of Oliveira's death, there was a systemic failure where a risk of serious injury was foreseeable. Lifting operations can be hazardous and appropriate standards are clearly set out in both the regulations and industry guidance. There is no excuse to ignore them and I would urge all those undertaking such work to review the effectiveness of their own controls to ensure safety on site."

FASET launches rigger course

FASET, the trade association for the fall arrest and safety net rigging industry, has launched a new Specialist Rigger Safety Net Course for those needing to access open steel work to rig safety nets. Developed in collaboration with the National Access & Rescue Centre (NARC) and in cooperation with the Health & Safety Executive, the four day course provides qualified CSCS trained riggers both classroom and practical sessions on Work at Height Regulations, elementary rigging techniques, how to move safely along beams, caring and maintaining equipment, rescue methods and suspension trauma.

Tony Seddon, FASET secretary, said: "It is vital that managers and supervisors understand the limitations and techniques associated with this method of working and most importantly, how to decide whether it's the right method for the task in hand. This course gives them the knowledge and expertise they need to make that decision."



FASET has launched a four day training course for CSCS trained riggers



An artist impression of JLG's new customer training centre

JLG expands training centre

JLG is expanding its customer training centre in McConnellsburg, with a new \$2.5 million, 1,400 square metre facility. Set to open this summer, it will feature a larger bay to accommodate more machines and participants undergoing hands-on training, as well as a six acre obstacle course designed to provide hands-on driving and operating skills.

The proving ground/obstacle course will simulate a working construction site and participants will be assigned loads to move, obstacles and hazards to manoeuvre around and over, including slopes, grades, and telegraph poles with simulated power lines. The aim is to help participants master equipment operation as they learn to overcome some of the more difficult challenges encountered on jobsites. The expanded indoor space will include upgrades to existing classrooms, featuring improved audio visual equipment and a new break and refreshment area.

Poor scaffolds cost £20,000+

ASW Scaffolding of West Hagbourne, Oxfordshire, was fined £15,000 plus £5,438 costs for unsafe scaffolding in Oxford and Wantage in 2012 and 2013. The Wantage scaffold was discovered in July 2012 with missing

ties, bracing and vehicle impact protection which placed members of the public at risk. Remedial work was carried out and approved. However on 28th March 2013 an HSE inspector witnessed an ASW employee working on a partially-completed scaffold with no guardrails or fall prevention features on the Banbury Road in Oxford, triggering the prosecution.



The Wantage scaffold

Who trained him then?



Spotted in Maaseik, Belgium is a man using a rather suspect looking loader crane to lift a pallet which he is sat on to carry out work approximately five metres off the ground.