

Do you receive a hard copy?

Would you prefer to receive your own personal copy of the printed version of **Cranes & Access**? Then register on-line now for your personal subscription. Cranes & Access: The Lifting Professional's magazine. www.Vertikal.net/en/journal_subscription.php

Download complete issues

Laptop users: Download complete issues of Cranes & Access or **Kran & Bühne** to read when you have the time. Using the latest version of Adobe Acrobat you can search for specific words or names in the issue or even have your PC read the articles out loud to you while winging your way across the Atlantic (or wiling away the hours on the Motorway!). Cranes & Access: www.Vertikal.net/en/journal.php
Kran & Bühne: www.Vertikal.net/en/journal.php



Do you read German?

Do you need to keep up to date with what's happening in the German, Austrian and Swiss lifting industries? Then our sister magazine, Kran & Bühne, is the magazine for you. Subscribe now to Germany's leading publication for the crane and access industries and keep up to date with the latest news (published in German). www.Vertikal.net/de/journal_subscription.php



Have you registered for email alerts?

When major news breaks in the lifting world, be the first to hear about it ..Free! News bulletins by e-mail straight to your mailbox. Register for **News Alerts** to get major head line news as it happens. www.Vertikal.net/en/newsletter.php

Use our on line access and lifting directory

Have you tried our on line Access and lifting directory? Direct links take you to supplier's web sites with one click of the mouse, with 29 product categories and hundreds of the best suppliers, this is a very convenient source guide as well as an easy way to find a lifting company's web site.

English guide: <http://www.vertikal.net/en/links.php>

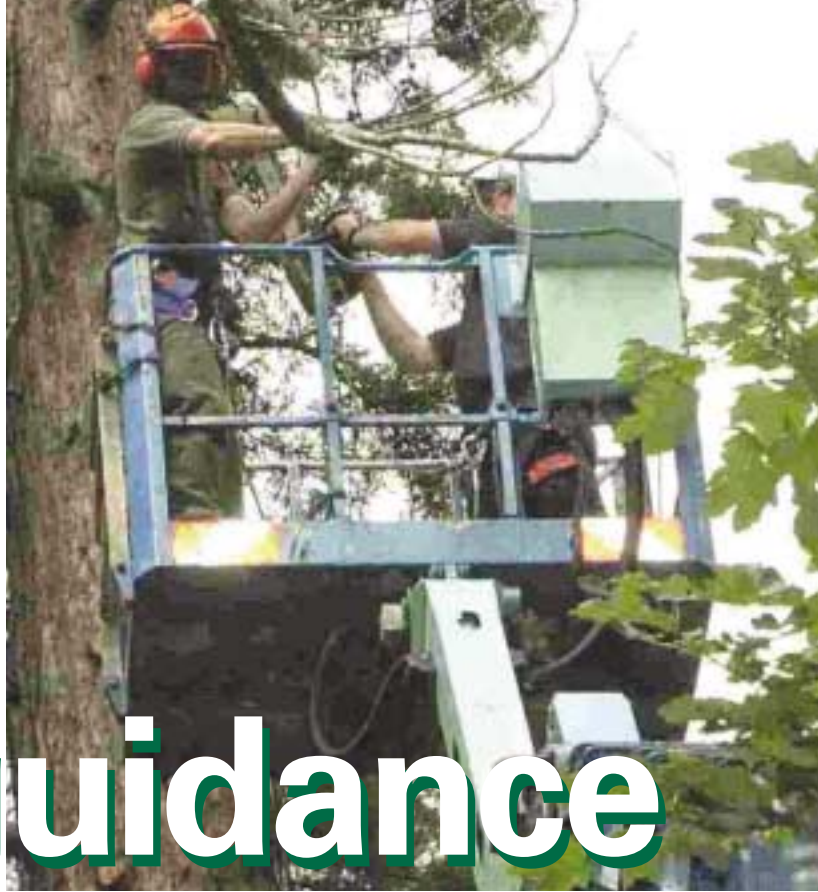
German guide: <http://www.vertikal.net/de/links.php>



Central European rental companies

The world's largest on-line listing of mainland European crane and access rental companies is available to you now. Just click the link below to go to Vertikal.net/Vermieter where the bi-lingual site will guide you to hire companies throughout Europe. www.Vertikal.net/Vermieter

Growth in tree sector exposes lack of guidance



Tree work is dangerous. Falling from height, chainsaws, overhead power lines, falling trees and branches all contribute to making it one of the most dangerous of all industry sectors. The recent boom in the use of aerial work platforms in tree work should improve safety. But through the lack of specific industry experience, training and guidance, platforms are contributing to the accident statistics.

A Google news search illustrates the problem graphically. Reports of accidents and fatalities resulting from platform misuse are reported almost daily, many of them in the tree sector.

Most agree that the use of powered access in the arboriculture sector is set to boom over the next few years -

The 30m Teupen is proving popular on larger trees says Ranger



driven by increasing health and safety legislation. The growth of the platform mirrors that of another item of equipment, now viewed as 'essential' by the arborists - the brush chipper. 15 years ago relatively few owned a chipper. Now every man and his dog has one. Is the aerial lift the next chipper? If it is, it could result in sales of several thousand units a year.

Accident figures for forestry and arboriculture workers are poor. The odds of sustaining a major or fatal injury in any one year are estimated to be worse than 1 in 120. In the ten years between 1992/3 and 2001/2, there have been 48 deaths in the UK alone. A number of specialists we spoke with were not convinced that the use of powered access had helped these numbers.

"The problem is not with the work platform, but the lack of knowledge and experience of the hirers and operators which often leads to choosing the wrong platform and incorrect method of work for the job," said Paul Hanson of Arboretum International, and a member of the steering committee in the early stages of producing a new, detailed guide specifically dealing with the use of powered access in the tree industry.

The new - yet to be named - document is still about a year away, but should

address the surprising gap in specific information that currently exists. Training on different types of platform is available from IPAF of course, but nothing deals with the specific and unique nature of using a platform for tree work, such as dropping material and leaving and re-entering the basket at height. Hirers are generally experienced in renting machines to the construction and industrial industries. However a lack of knowledge in specific tree applications is the major cause for concern.

Tree workers and mechanical equipment - such as chippers, stump cutters and access platforms - generally do not mix. Like most skilled workers, they expect their tools of the trade to perform faultlessly, with minimum input from themselves.

Within the industry, powered access has received a mixed reception. In general experienced but still relatively young, climbers tend to oppose the use of the equipment. The younger, less experienced workers, are more willing to adapt to change, while the platform allows the 'more mature' arborists to continue to work longer than if they have to climb. Climbing is physically exhausting and the platform allows more production each day - offsetting the cost of the platform.

Generally once a climber has used a platform, they quickly see the benefits.

Research has shown that using a platform can be three times quicker than traditional methods. As well as being faster, it is less tiring and workers require more easily acquired skills to compete the same task efficiently and safely.

The document primarily responsible for the growth in the use of powered access is The Work At Height Regulations 2005. Addressing safety is particularly important in arboriculture where falls from height continue to be a regular occurrence and where the result is often death or major injury. The new Regulations consolidate previous legislation on working at height

A 17m Italmec working on the removal of an avenue of Poplars





Teupen's rotating platform provides handy outreach when taking a tree down piece by piece.

and implement EU directive 2001/45/EC concerning minimum safety and health requirements for the use of equipment for work at height (the Temporary Work at Height Directive).

The HSE wants to see 'all work at height properly planned, appropriately supervised and carried out in a manner which is – so far as reasonably practicable – safe'. Where possible, work at height should be avoided completely by using tools such as pole pruners. If work at height cannot be avoided equipment such as an aerial lift should be considered.

For certain applications – dangerous trees for example – there is no alternative but to use a lift. But more common tasks such as the trimming of large hedges, also benefit from using a platform.

"On numerous occasions we have hired machines for hedge trimming jobs that would normally take a week using ladders or static platforms, and have completed the job in half the time," said Keith Irvine of Lionlift distributor IJ Access. "There is an increased cost for the platform, but new legislation is forcing tree workers to consider the machine. They then realise the speed and safety benefits."

Irvine is unusual in that he has been selling and hiring tree equipment – chippers and stump cutters – since 1992 before taking on access platforms in September of last year. He is therefore more knowledgeable than most about the tree sector.

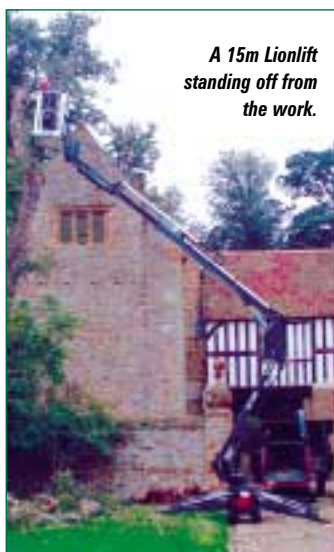
"Potential hirers often under specify the platform, probably to keep the hire costs to a minimum," he said. "A 15 metre high tree cannot be worked on correctly with a 15 metre high platform. There needs to be more education, particularly on the positioning of the machine, the site including access and gradients, setting the machine correctly and personal protection equipment. If we don't think the customer is competent, we will not hire out the machine."

"Platforms are mechanically very reliable," said Irvine, "every problem we have had has been caused by the operator either failing to listen or understand

how to operate the machine correctly or by not applying common sense to the job."

Machines for tree work need good outreach, and the major growth has been in the tracked crawler or 'spider' type machines. In transport mode, they are narrow enough to access back gardens, yet larger units offer working heights up to 50 metres. Popular lifts combine good working height, outreach, compact dimensions and price.

"Our most popular machine is the 15 metre tracked unit," said Irvine, "as well as having an 8.7metre outreach,



A 15m Lionlift standing off from the work.

it weighs less than two tonnes, making it easy to tow. Machines with this working height and outreach have a purchase price about £25-30,000, while they can be hired, including trailer, for between £450-600 per week."

German-based Teupen claims to be world leader in tracked platforms, in the UK the machines are distributed by Ranger Equipment which is probably the market leader, at least for larger units.

"Arborists are looking for machines that are compact, have good outreach and are stable in operation," said Ranger director Steve Hatfield. "14-16 metre machines are currently the most popular as well as the 20-25 metre units. These larger machines have an outreach of between 10-12 metres.

Teupen units go up to 50metres, but the 30metre unit appeals because of its light weight - just 4.2 tonnes.

The growth in the market over the last few years is plain to see.

"In 2004 about 10 percent of our sales went into the tree sector," said Hatfield. "Even though our turnover had almost doubled, last year this had grown to 25 percent and tree related sales look set to double again over the next three years."

So with a year before any new, MEWP specific information and guidance is generally available, what are the major areas that tree users must take note of?

According to Hanson the key fundamental issues for hiring and operating an aerial lift are qualifications of users, machine selection and insurance.

"Make sure you have the correct amount of insurance cover – both for the job and also the platform which can cost more than £150k," said Hanson. "Ensure that anyone operating the equipment has the appropriate qualifications to operate that specific type of platform. And finally, use the right machine for the job which allows the platform to be positioned at a safe distance from the tree with a clear cutting and drop space. Although there is currently no specific guidance, common sense goes a long way."

The new 'Guide to Good Powered Access Practice with Trees' (or whatever it will be called) will be a hefty 50-60 page, A5 document looking at all aspects of using platforms in tree work.

Areas currently being looked at include platform design; the use of chainsaws with particular reference to securing the saws, stability and internal scabbards; pole and hand saws; movement causing instability; safe working loads with reference to tools; the effect of weather conditions including wind; work restraint lanyards; full body harnesses; climbing out of the basket into the tree and aerial rescue. Quite a list!

Suggestions have already been made to manufacturers to design 'tree friendly' machines. This might include features such as a smaller round basket allowing easier movement in the crown of the tree.



A pole mounted trimmer used to tackle Leylandii at Stratford Hospital.

Hirer Nationwide has machines with a steel screen across the basket, allowing a platform operator to be within the normal minimum distance of a working chainsaw.

Most accidents involve platforms that are either too short for the job and therefore incorrectly positioned – for example cutting a branch above the platform which subsequently falls into the basket, or booms toppling due to incorrect set-up or exceeding the maximum capacity of the basket.

In the long-term, powered access will improve safety in tree work. However to achieve this there needs to be an awareness campaign so that users, hirers, manufacturers and distributors all understand the applications, types of equipment needed, specific requirements in set up and Personal Protective Equipment so that obvious errors and accidents can be eradicated.

If platforms do follow the chipper route, we have several more years of familiarisation and legislation to deal with, But the end result will be well worth it!

Crawshaw Arborcare use the Hinowa Goldlift from APS on a crown thin and dead wooding job in Leamington Spa.





WORLDLIFT INDUSTRIES AS

The perfect combination

DENKA LIFT AND FALCK SCHMIDT

WORLDLIFT INDUSTRIES AS is the result of the merger of Denka Lift A/S and E. Falck Schmidt A/S. Both companies have always been known for their high quality products. Together they are the perfect combination.

DENKA TRAILERS
Working height from 12 to 30m. The new DLX15 is the only trailer mounted lift with jib-arm, thus combining the best of articulating and telescoping principles.

FALCON SPIDER/NARROW
Compact track or wheeled lifts developed for indoor and outdoor use. Down to 0.79m wide you can access everywhere. Working height from 19 to 55m.

FALCK SCHMIDT SERIES
Truck mounted, total weight 3500kg with working heights up to 21m, as well as highly sophisticated utility platforms mounted on truck or van.

Visit: www.wl-industries.com

Quality

Innovation

Reliability

Odense + 45 66 13 11 00 Holbæk + 45 59 45 55 00

Reliability defined

TEUPEN[®]
ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE



Compact dimensions allow every Teupen model to pass through standard doorways, whilst the tracked chassis creates low ground bearing pressure to eliminate damage to floors.

TEUPEN (toy-pen),

– noun machine of innovative design; of unique construction; of outstanding quality and reliability; of superior performance; in a class of it's own; the benchmark to which all others aspire; of enviable reputation.

– adjective german; teutonic; superior; outstanding.

DERIVATIVES: non; not to be mistaken; one of a kind; the pinnacle.

ORIGIN: West Germany; generally associated with engineering excellence.

RANGER

www.tracked-access.co.uk
www.teupen.uk.com
Tel: 0870 225 5554

Sales • Hire • Service

Manufactured by Teupen and distributed in the UK by:- RANGER EQUIPMENT 52 Shaw Street, Whittington Moor, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8AY.
Tel: 0870 225 5554 Fax: 0207 900 2229 Email: sales@tracked-access.co.uk

Vehicle mounted lift producer, Versalift, has developed a dedicated arborist's access platform with the collaboration of Nottinghamshire County Council.

The machine features a two cubic metre steel roller shutter locker for storage of lightweight signs, personal protective equipment, harnesses, brushes, cones and barriers. It is also designed to tow a brush chipper and ducts chippings into a three cubic metres (1.5 tonnes) capacity on-board storage cage with hydraulic tipping. Versalift's tree work unit is equipped with an ET38NF telescopic platform offering 14.2m working height and 7.3m horizontal outreach. It has been mounted on a 7.5 tonnes Isuzu flat bed truck previously used by Nottingham County Council's highways department for 'hot box' reinstatement work.

Consideration had to be given to overall payload needs, including the range of equipment to be stored in the locker, the weight of the chippings cage when full and the towing weight of the chipper. Versalift engineering manager, Bryn Barker, said: "Loads have to be carefully distributed to ensure there is no overloading on the front or rear axles. We also moved the position of the vehicle stabilisers to suit load configurations.

The machine also has auxiliary remote control from ground level on a 'wander lead', a chainsaw protection bar on the basket, and on-board first aid and hand wash facilities. It has a rear-facing CCTV camera for reversing safety and high visibility features including four front strobes, four rear strobes, lights on the platform and multiple striping."

Viewing the machine at its launch, David Butter, HM

inspector of health and safety with the HSE, said: "The unknown quantity for a tree climber is the strength of the branch. Nottinghamshire County Council's solution removes the risks associated with this unknown variable. Other features like the chainsaw bar and chippings box add value to the unit. We haven't seen anything else like it yet for the industry."

The new Tree platform from Versalift.



Removing a rotten tree

When one of the oldest trees at the National Trust Belton House, near Grantham, Lincolnshire, was found to be decaying and unsafe, it had little option but to cut it down.

The 320 year old, 20 metres high tree stood near a children's adventure playground. SRF Tree Specialists of Grantham, decided that dismantling it bit-by-bit was the only option, to prevent damage to the surrounding area. To do this SRF hired a 22 metre telescopic boom on a 4x4 Volvo chassis.

"If the tree's sound we don't need an access platform", says managing director of SRF Sean Ritchie. "But when a tree is rotten like this one, you cannot climb it or put any weight on it" The removal of the tree took less than a day.

SRF used a 22m truck mount to 'dismantle' the 320 year old tree.



Truck mount just the ticket

Late last year a heavy storm damaged a number of trees that loomed over the historic school house in Settle. Treetops Forestry was called in to make the trees safe, given the height and outreach it was clear that a specialist lift was required.

A 35 metre Bronto helps remove dangerous limbs



Nationwide was called in to recommend a suitable lift. It provided a 35 metre Bronto Skylift truck mounted telescopic platform due to its 23.8 metres outreach as much as its height. Its compact dimensions also helped. Tree surgeon Jonathan Strange said: "One very heavy branch had come completely adrift and was stuck in the fork of an adjoining tree. The whole thing was very unstable. Using this machine was the only way we could reach out over the roof of the building and dismantle the trees safely. The Bronto that Skylift provided proved to be the perfect choice."