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The overturned telehandler at the Parkway development in Newbury

## Telehandler fatality costs £615,000

International engineering group Costain was fined £525,000 plus £90,577 in costs after a telehandler overturned killing the operator in 2011. Mark Williams, 41, was lifting a pallet of tiles to a fourth storey roof in Newbury, UK, when the telehandler overturned, causing fatal crushing injuries.

Working between two buildings Williams had been forced to fully raise the telehandler's boom to reduce the telehandler's overall length and create a greater turning circle. This however reduced its stability causing it to overturn when moved. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found that Williams had no option but to operate in this way and that the safety of the telehandler was

compromised by limited space and obstructions. HSE principal inspector Steve Hull said: "This was a tragic and entirely preventable death. Williams was required to use a telehandler that was wholly unsuited to the confined area. He should have been provided with alternative, more appropriate equipment and a better system of work."

## Wind energy training from Ainscough

UK based crane rental company Ainscough has opened a new RenewableUK and Global Wind Organization (GWO) accredited wind energy training centre in Falkirk, Scotland.

It will offer a variety of courses in manual handling, as well as working at height and rescue. In addition, Ainscough has introduced a number of modules designed for the telecommunications industry. Supported by the Arqiva division of BT, the new courses include training for tower climbers, tower rescue, roof working and radio frequency safety training.



Ainscough's new training centre will act as a one stop shop for wind energy training throughout Scotland and the north of England.

## NCC Apprentice of the Year

Thomas Hughes, 22, of Volvo Construction, winner of this year's CPA 'Stars of the Future', has also won overall Apprentice of the Year, and Level 2 Apprentice of the Year at the National Construction College East.



Hughes receiving his NCC Apprentice of the Year awards.

## Online telehandler training

Genie has added a telehandler module to its Genie Lift Pro online operator training programmes for North America. The 'Online Telehandler Operator Training' is not brand specific and complies with the training requirements for Class 7 Rough Terrain Forklifts (telehandlers) as defined by ANSI/ITSDF B56.6, CSA B335 standards and OSHA 1910.178 regulations.

The four hour programme incorporates learning theory with a 57 question exam, complete with a proof of training certificate for those who pass. This must then be followed up with hands-on familiarisation from a qualified person in order to become a qualified operator.



Genie's new online telehandler training module is available on all web-based devices.

## Fall costs £50,000

Local Asbestos Services Ltd of Haydock was fined £8,000 plus costs of £6,191, and Leicestershire-based Construction Contracting UK Ltd, was fined £12,000 with costs of £23,502 after a man was seriously injured when he fell through a roof during the demolition of an old factory last April.

Construction Contracting was overseeing the project as principal contractor but both companies had agreed that the asbestos roofing sheets would be removed from below using a boom or scissor lift. In spite of this, two men climbed onto the roof to remove the panels from above. No safety or fall prevention equipment was provided. Peter Tracey, 59 was removing a sheet when it started to slip away. As he went to grab it he stepped onto a clear plastic panel, which gave way, causing him to fall five metres to the floor below. His injuries included two collapsed lungs, fractures to his ribs and hip,

and a ruptured left shoulder tendon. He was in hospital for a month and will be affected for the rest of his life.

HSE Inspector Kevin Jones said: "Sadly this kind of incident is all too common in the roofing industry. Both companies had prepared a risk assessment and method statement, identifying a safe system of work, but this wasn't implemented. The two men were allowed onto the roof, instead of using an aerial lift, which put both their lives in danger. This case should act as a warning to firms of the consequences of not following agreed safety systems."

## Who trained him then?

This man was spotted on the apex of a roof eight metres up painting the chimney of a house in Dunedin, New Zealand. The scaffold also looks suspect with no toe boards, fixed platforms or guardrails.



Eight metres up and not a care in the world.