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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.

Contractor faces \$168,000 fine

Massachusetts Bay Electrical Corporation has been fined \$168,000 following the fatal overturn of a boom truck on 12th April 2014. The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited the company for two wilful and four serious violations following the death of John Loughran jr, 34, and Joseph Boyd, 34, who were using an Elliot boom truck with an aerial work platform attachment to install a new high-tension power line.

The citation says that the company failed to set up and operate the crane according to the manufacturer's instructions and that its employees were not trained to operate it. The serious violations included not using load charts to determine the minimum boom angle, not using an aerial lift, allowing the crane to operate above 50 percent of rated capacity and failing to conduct a trial lift of the platform prior to use.

OSHA director Brenda Gordon, said: "The employer did not use readily available information that would have allowed this work to be conducted safely. This lapse needlessly cost two workers their lives."

Two men were working from an aerial work platform attachment when the Elliot truck crane overturned



Teenage electrocution an accident

The inquest into the death of Dean Bough, 17, while working from a platform in Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, has ruled that it was accidental - although that a lack of training played a part in his death.

Dean was working with his father Malcolm on October 13th 2011, painting window frames and lintels, at a property owned by Andrew Cooper, managing director of their employer Cooper Construction. Towards the end of the day Dean got into the work platform - which he was not trained to use - to paint a lamp post. His father said: "I was showing him how to use the cherry picker as we went along. I was aware of the overhead cables but didn't specifically have a conversation about them with him. At about 3pm the last job was to put another layer of paint on a lamp post."

"I had my back to him and cannot remember if he drove it forward or reversed. I don't know why but I looked around and he was stood in the basket facing me. I immediately noticed he was on a level with the overhead power lines and that his head was touching them. I realised he was being electrocuted."

Malcolm lowered the platform and tried to resuscitate him, while calling the emergency services. His son was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. The inquest was told that Malcolm had been trained to operate aerial work platforms, but his son had not. The HSE said that the platform was more than three metres from the lamp post he was supposed to be painting and at a height of seven metres, while the lamp post was only three metres high. The lift was found to be fully functional and in good condition.

Jump the gap

A UK roofer - Ronald King of Hoylake - has been fined £3,000 plus costs of £2,457 for using unsafe access equipment/methods while reroofing a house in Cheshire. King had set up a scaffold tower in a neighbouring garden, leaving employees to jump a one metre gap to the roof they were working on.

The five metre tower was missing platform boards and edge protection. King also failed to provide any measures to prevent a fall from the roof itself.

HSE inspector Kevin Jones, said: "Mr King is an experienced roofer. He not only put his own life at risk but also the lives of two of the workers he employed by asking them to jump from the scaffolding to the roof, and by not providing protection around the edge of the roof."



Reroofing a house with no measures in place to prevent a fall

Apprenticeship Awards

Liebherr GB has won the UK National Apprenticeship Award in the Large Employer category for the second consecutive year. Its apprentice programme generalist, Lee Mason, also won the 'City & Guilds apprentice champion' award for his work in promoting and advocating apprenticeships. HSS Hire Service was highly commended in the 'Newcomer large employer of the year' category.



(L-R) Jamie Reeve, Craig Cherry, Ryan Brookes and Lee Mason of Liebherr GB.

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Poland, two men apparently installing electrical wiring at a height of around six metres. To achieve this, the two men placed a metal stillage on top of a fork-mounted skip which had been put on the very edge of a forklift's tines and then balanced against the wall.

