

# Are your staff properly trained?

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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing

# When will they ever learn?

## Another two die for want of a Harness

Another two men have died that could have been saved by the wearing of harnesses. The two were ejected from a Teupen Leo 50 crawler mounted boom lift, owned by Maes, the Belgian rental company, on March 24th. One of the men was a Maes operator while the other was a tree surgeon. It seems that some form of failure caused the lower boom and upper telescope sections of the top boom to retract rapidly, when the platform rammed against the stops, the levelling cylinder or its mounting gave way causing the platform to tip through 90 degrees catapulting the men to their deaths. A harness with short lanyard would almost certainly have saved both lives. The accident has not only traumatised the men's families but also their colleagues at Maes, and the management and employees at Teupen. An investigation is continuing.

*Two men were flung out of this platform to their death.*

## Ladder fall costs Contractor £22,000

Henderson General Services Ltd, a Putney based construction company was fined £18,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,296, at the Old Bailey in March.

The company was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive, following an investigation into the death of Mr James Grimes (63) who died after falling from a ladder while he attempted to access a scaffold.

Grimes, of Southfields near Wimbledon, was contracted to paint the exterior of a building in Queens Gate Terrace, London, SW15, when he fell 4.25 metres. He had been attempting to climb over a balcony railing from the ladder.

HSE investigating inspector Simon Hester, said: "This death could easily have been avoided if the company had ensured safe ladder access to the scaffold. A simple and cheap action, such as installing a gantry for example, would have prevented the death of Mr Grimes and the grief suffered by his family and friends. Any contractor or site foreman reading

about this case should be sure to check that proper ladder access is in place for the scaffold on their site."

Henderson General Services Ltd pleaded guilty to breaching section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.



*How not to use a ladder!  
A large number of serious injuries and even fatalities occur below 3m.*

## Man killed by self erecting tower crane

**A 35 year old man was helping two colleagues dismantle a self erecting tower crane in Coatesville, north of Auckland, New Zealand in February. The three were trying to fold the crane, when it seems, the upper A-frame jammed.**

The men climbed the tower and started pulling on the A-frame in order to free it. It suddenly released and the three men jumped, two managing to get clear, while the third was hit in the head by the falling jib, killing him outright.

The investigation is continuing. The dead man had worked for the crane hire company for around 12 months.

## House Builders warned

**The HSE has warned house builders to ensure that adequate precautions are taken to prevent falls from height. The warning came after Mitchell and Son Homes Ltd was fined £4,000 with costs of £1,278 at Hereford Magistrates Court following an accident, which resulted in a subcontractor falling approximately four metres from a roof on 5 April 2005.**

The incident occurred during the conversion of old farm buildings, Walford Court Barns at Walford near Ross on Wye.

Subcontractor Thomas Macklin was working on the roofing when he slipped from his ladder and fell on to tarmac.

The ladder was balanced on scaffolding which was not adequately fitted with toe boards.

Ladders should not in any case be placed against or supported by scaffold platforms.

Macklin suffered multiple fractures and permanent damage to his left wrist.

When a self erecting tower crane jams during the folding sequence, the temptation to climb onto the structure in order to free it up is strong. When such a situation arises a specialist should always be called in.

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