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IPAF **PASMA**

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.

Lack of training & equipment costs £166,000

M J Allen Holdings, a Kent, UK-based metalwork casting and machining company, has been fined £160,000 plus nearly £6,000 in costs for unsafe work practices after an employee almost fell through a fragile roof in September 2014.

An investigation found the company failed to provide suitable work at height equipment and that employees had not undergone specific training for working at height. HSE inspector Guy Widdowson said: "This incident had the potential to cause significant, life threatening injuries to the employee who was affected."

Buckner organises careers event

US heavy crane, rigging and steel erecting company Buckner will host its third Lift & Move USA careers event in Graham, North Carolina on May 17th to promote careers in the crane, rigging and specialised transport sectors with the aim to educate the next generation of drivers, mechanics, welders, operators and riggers. Aimed at high school and college students along with military veterans, the last event in Houston, was attended by around 700 students and veterans.

Chief executive Doug Williams said: "We firmly believe that recruiting and hiring talented members of the next generation's workforce is critical to the success and sustainability of our company. We are also embracing the opportunity to showcase exceptional careers in the crane, rigging and specialised transport industries and looking forward to a successful event right here in the Carolinas."

The event is free for students, parents, teachers and veterans, while any industry representative wishing to attend will have to pay a \$150 registration fee. All attendees have to register in advance at www.liftandmoveUSA.com. The conference is organised in cooperation with SkillsUSA.



ALE makes training compulsory

UK-based heavy lift and transport company ALE has reported increasing success with its in-house Standard Schemes of Training (SSOT) programmes that it launched five years ago. The SSOT training was developed in response to the need for formal operator development, where no 'off-the-shelf' training courses existed. The company now has 10 vocational training schemes in place covering everything from SPMTs and gantries, to jacks and its massive AL.SK350 crane. It is compulsory for all of its operators to enrol on a scheme, which gives them the opportunity to progress through different belt levels from yellow to brown and all the way to black.

ALE's global training specialist Kay Sproule said: "SSOTs now run across the whole group and, as far as we know, this type of training scheme is completely unique in our industry. What is great about them is that they are specific to us and our industry. These are not skills that can be learnt in a classroom environment - people learn best by 'doing'. They are designed to help prevent incidents, injuries or damage and maintain global consistency and quality. Our clients increasingly want to see traceability and evidence of the training our teams undertake and SSOTs deliver this."



The new Potain MR205

New tower crane for US training centre

US union, Local 150 has added to its crane fleet at its Apprenticeship and Skill Improvement Program training centre in Wilmington Illinois, taking delivery of a Potain MR205, which joins two Liebherr's, a 132 HC and 100LC. The massive centre is located on a 300 acre site and runs a fleet of 25 cranes. It boasts 30 classrooms, a construction material testing lab, state of the art welding facility, equipment simulator lab and 200 seat auditorium.

Sign company hit for £21,500

Warburton Signs of Sheffield, UK, has been fined £20,000 plus more than £1,500 in costs after an employee fell five metres from a flat roof in April 2015. The company was contracted to erect a large sign to the gable end of an industrial building. Three fitters accessed a neighbouring flat roof to fit the sign when one of them fell from the roof and suffered life threatening injuries including a fractured skull, several broken ribs, a collapsed lung and chipped vertebra. The investigation found that Warburton had failed to put in place any measures to prevent a fall from height.



Who trained them then?

Spotted in Billet Lane, Berkhamsted, UK, men working on a National Grid gas pipe with no suitable work at height equipment. This on a site that has been regularly used to demonstrate the benefits of truck mounted and spider lifts that can work below ground level.

