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Step ladder falls cost £660,000

British Telecom has been fined £600,000, plus costs of £60,000 after two BT Open Reach engineers were seriously injured in falls from height. The two were working at the Darlington Automatic Telephone Exchange, where one of the engineers was installing a cable through a hole on the first floor along a ceiling level cable tray to the main distribution frame on the ground floor.

He was working on a stepladder with his hands among the lighting systems when he felt a pain in his right arm and fell from the ladder. He was taken to hospital with head and back injuries.

An HSE investigation found that the accident wasn't properly investigated and later that day, April 1st 2010, the work was allowed to continue. The second engineer continued with the work from a different ladder, he also fell to the ground and was taken to hospital with serious skull and back injuries.

The first man returned to work for BT, but had lost his sense of smell and taste and required physiotherapy for a number of years. The second received serious multiple fractures of the skull and spine, his sense of smell and taste were affected, he was blinded in one eye, and has long-term memory problems.

The HSE investigation found that the work had not been properly assessed or planned, despite workers being exposed to serious risks including working at height close to an electrical system. Serious failings were also found within the lighting system with workers exposed to live metal parts. The system was poorly constructed and had not been properly maintained or tested. It is most likely that both engineers received electric shocks which threw them from the ladders.

BT pleaded guilty and was fined £600,000 and ordered to pay costs of £60,000.

Crane inspectors hit for \$5.5 million

A West Alabama jury has awarded \$5.5 million to relatives of crane operator Michael Singley, 47, who died when his crane overturned in Holt in July 2012. He worked for West Alabama Mechanical and was operating the crane at Southern Ionics in Holt.

His family filed a wrongful death lawsuit claiming Southeastern Crane Inspections had inspected the crane but failed to disclose serious technical problems to West Alabama Mechanical. The suit was also filed against the company that sold the crane, the owners and the safety inspector of West Alabama Mechanical. They all agreed a \$950,000 settlement before the trial, leaving Southeastern Crane as the lone defendant. The judgment means Southeastern Crane will now be responsible for paying the \$4.5 million balance.



Terex Cranes trainer Jürgen Hoffmann with Elias Sutter on the podium in Beijing

Terex Cranes world champion welder

An apprentice from Terex Cranes Germany, Elias Sutter, has won the world championship title for hand arc welding. The German team also took second place overall at this year's Arc Cup world welding championships for young welders, which took place in Beijing from the 18th to the 20th June.

The apprentice from Zweibrücken said: "For me, just getting to the world championships and competing against the best young welders in the world was in itself a fantastic success. I can hardly believe that I have now actually won the title."

Sutter qualified for the four-man German team by winning the hand arc welding section of the national "Jugend schweiß" welding competition in September 2015, a month later the German team secured its place at the world championships by taking a strong second place at the European Welding Cup in Cambridge, UK.

Terex Zweibrücken's training supervisor Jürgen Hoffmann, has also been instrumental in landing the award, having been committed to the development of young people for many years. He joined the German team in Beijing.

Who trained them then?

Spotted in London in May, two men working on shuttering at a job site run by a major contractor. Both are equipped with proper access equipment - one a ladder the other a scissor lift - yet both have left the safety of their equipment and resorted to climbing in order to carry out the work. Seems that the planning for this job could have been better?

