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Two men 11 metres up, having climbed from a boom lift



A man working from a pallet on the forks of the telehandler

## Fork and pallet costs £508,000

A Bulgarian construction company working in the UK has been fined £500,000 plus costs of £8,013.25 after its employees were reported for several work at height issues including working from a pallet on the forks of a telehandler.

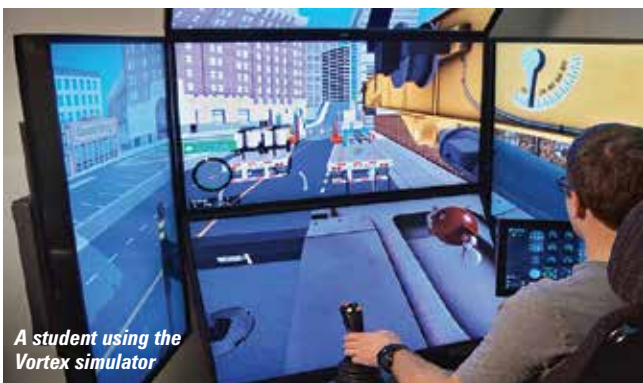
Walltopia of Letnitsa, Bulgaria was charged after a member of the public reported unsafe working practices during the building of a high ropes climbing frame in Markeaton Park, Derby last year. The person spotted men working from the forks of a telehandler and

reported it to the company, which assured them that the matter would be dealt with. However the unsafe working at height continued, so the person reported it to the Health & Safety Executive which sent an inspector to site. He found two men on a roof 11 metres up, without no

means to prevent them from falling, they had also accessed the roof by climbing from a boom lift.

Inspector Lee Greatorex said: "Using a pallet on a telehandler for planned work at height is an unacceptable means of access. It appears that the company failed to put in place control measures after being alerted about this. Walltopia failed to follow

recognised industry standards during work at height and did not make effective changes following the matter being brought to its attention. Work at height should always be sufficiently planned and managed, in this case someone could have suffered significant injuries or death."



A student using the Vortex simulator

## Crane simulator study

Crane Industry Services (CIS) of Atlanta, Georgia and Canada's CM Labs Simulations - developer of Vortex training simulators - have begun a skills assessment study to determine which operational skill level can be achieved with the use of crane simulators.

The study got underway in July and will continue for 14 months or until 500 operators have participated in the research. Participants will be trained using a Vortex Rough Terrain Mobile Crane Training Module and will include crane operators ranging from no experience to experienced professionals. The partners are seeking operators with 1) No real experience - less than 99 hours operating time. 2) Limited experience - up to 1,000 hours over the past five years, and 3) Full-time crane operators with little to no exposure to training simulators.

CIS chief executive Debbie Dickinson said: "This study is a first for the crane industry. While crane simulators are not new, there is little quantitative research that determines the value crane simulation offers as part of comprehensive training."

Drew Carruthers of CM Labs added: "We are extremely pleased to participate in this study. It benefits the industry as a whole to understand how we can use simulator-based training to accelerate construction training programmes."

## Genie supports French high school students

Genie has worked with two second year pupils studying for a Brevet de Technicien Supérieur (BTS), a two-year vocational technical diploma at the René Cassin High School in Mâcon, France. Vincent Vaché and David Petitjean of Genie helped them develop a simulator for a Genie ZX-135/70 articulated boom for operator training. Pupils on the vocational steel manufacturing diploma at the school also helped with the project.

The demonstration of a Genie Z-45/25 boom lift at the school in May 2013, provided the spark for the simulator idea which began in 2014, and got underway a year later. The simulator comprises both electronic and manual elements. The mechanical is represented by a working model of the machine's three-section boom, which is controlled by an electronic control panel. The simulator should be operational by October, when it will be shipped to Genie's European Distribution Centre in Roosendaal, the Netherlands for use as part of the training teams technical training programmes.

Vaché said: "The project was an opportunity to transmit our skills and experience to the young people who will continue to build tomorrow's aerial industry. This simulator is the perfect example of the result of the close collaboration between us and the students and has encouraged us to move forward with the development of similar initiatives."

## Who trained them then?

Spotted on a beach somewhere in the UK a number of men erecting a stage with a telehandler, the picture says it all.

