

Are your staff **properly trained**?

Don't risk it call a certified local company today

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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 for full listing

Ah there he is...
look at that lanyard!

Has this man been **trained?**

He is wearing a harness, but in a way that boggles the mind!

We have been at the forefront in encouraging the wearing of a full body harness with short lanyard in boom lifts (but not scissor lifts). However it is clear that with some operators nothing can be taken for granted!

In January a man was spotted working on the façade of the SBB station in

Basel with a 60ft articulated boom lift. It certainly looked like text book stuff in the beginning; the operator even appeared to be wearing a harness.

However once up close to the work area it became clear that the operator had not spotted the machine close enough to the work. Instead of moving it, he climbed out of the platform

extended his 2.5 metre long lanyard with an extra length of webbing and a nice big knot and attached it to the guardrail. He then proceeded to crawl along a ledge on his hands and knees!

**Once again we say
has this man been trained?**

**Another day another challenge
Cordon off the area? What's that?**

A few days later, and a different crew are working on the station canopy, this time at least the operators remained in the platform, however they were working directly over the main exit from the station. Pedestrians were passing under the lifts boom oblivious to the work going on just over their heads.

The innovative harness attachment point is still in place, but neither man seems to be harnessed up today.



Mind your head!

Where is the operator?



Roof walk costs firm £4,000

Venturi Steeplejack Company Limited, of Basford near Nottingham, was fined £4,000 after pleading guilty to contravening work at height regulations. In April 2005, Leicestershire HSE Inspector Roger Amery was making a routine visit to a firm in Loughborough, when he saw two men working on the roof of Fisher Scientific Ltd, Bishop Meadow Road.

Amery said: "While at a nearby premises, I spotted the two men walking across a fragile roof and quickly made my way over to them. Although happily in this case no one was injured, every year people working at height lose their lives or suffer serious injury. Contractors and their clients need to exercise sufficient control to prevent this sort of thing happening".

"Firms need to ensure they have devised a proper method for doing the job and then stick to it; it is no good starting without the right equipment. Employees have to play their part and should not be putting themselves at risk, some employers need to raise their game to stay on the right side of the law."

Two key tips include:

- follow the risk assessments you have carried out and make sure all work at height is planned, organised and carried out by competent persons;
- choose the right work equipment and select measures to prevent falls such as guardrails and working platforms, before those that only mitigate the distance and consequences of a fall (such as nets or airbags) or which may only provide personal protection from a fall.

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