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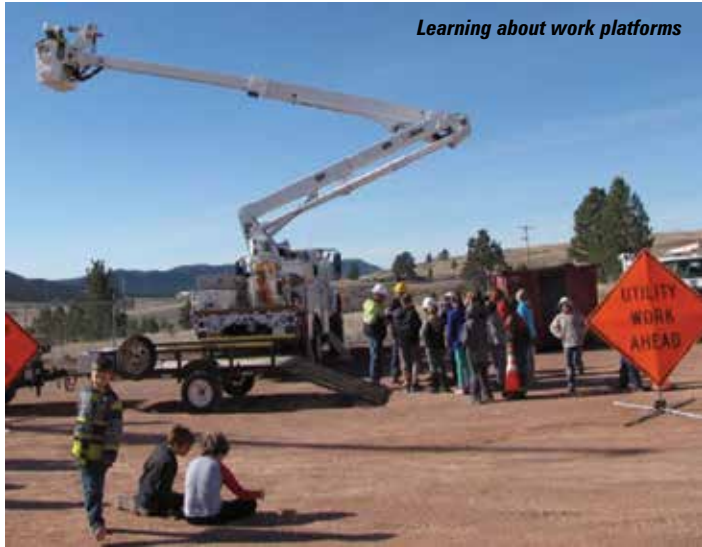
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All training centres above offer **IPAF/PASMA/CPCS** or other approved and audited training courses. European directives and most national regulations require that staff are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate. If you wish to become a sponsor of the Training & Safety page opposite by advertising, contact us on [info@vertikal.net](mailto:info@vertikal.net)

# The dangers of overhead power lines

South Dakota-based Black Hills Energy and the Black Hills Electric Cooperative have joined forces to provide overhead power line educational sessions and demonstrations for school children.

The most recent event included a session for 60 pupils from the Hot Springs Elementary school at Black Hills' depot in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The company used its trailer mounted demonstration rig to show what happens when a person makes contact with an overhead power line. The children then went outside to learn about its aerial lifts and how they are used with some of receiving a hands-on demonstration. The sessions are aimed at educating youngsters on the dangers of electricity while perhaps interesting some of them in a career in the utility sector.



Learning about work platforms



demonstrating the power of electricity

## Fall after leaving the platform costs £63,000

Kingmoor Park Properties of Cumbria in the UK, has been fined £55,000 plus costs of £8,599 after employee David Gill fell six metres through a skylight after stepping out of the platform of a boom lift while working on the roof of a building at Kingmoor Park, north of Carlisle.

Gill, in his fifties, landed on a conveyor and suffered a punctured lung and 17 bone fractures. The building was locked at the time and his son, who was working with him, was unable to get in to help him, in spite of trying to smash his way in with a hammer. Gill managed to drag himself to a fire door and escape in spite of his injuries.

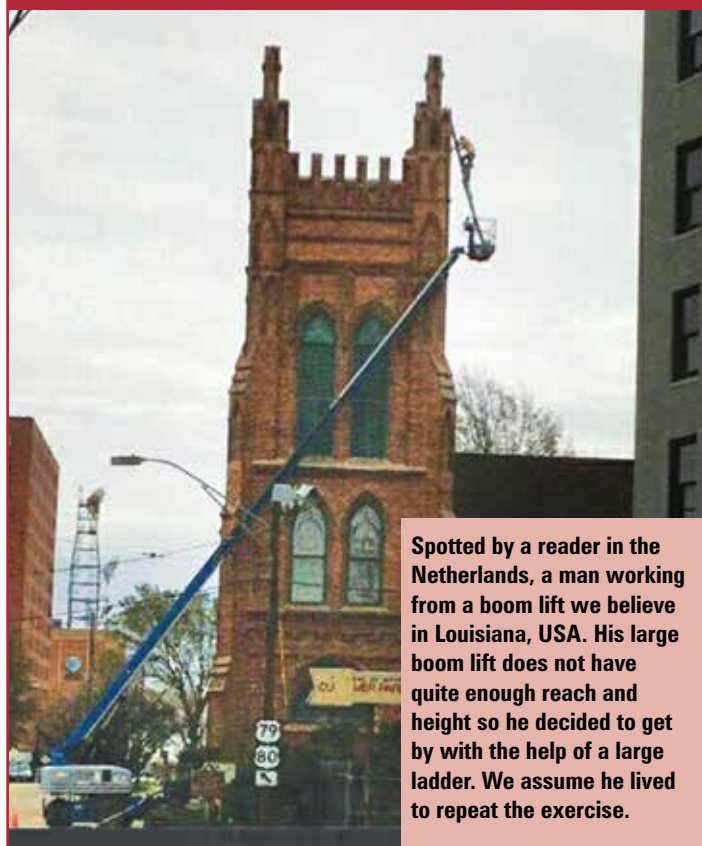
Their routine duties included unblocking gutters and non-specialist roof work such as fixing leaks - typically two or three times a month. If a roof repair was major, they would call in specialist contractors. The company's health and safety manual included a general risk assessment for the work platform the men used, but had not been brought to their attention, although they had attended a one-day training course in the safe use of the platform. In spite of this they were not harnessed in at the time.

On the day of the incident in April, 2014, Gill and his son used the boom lift to patch one roof and then looked at another roof job but decided to bring in a specialist. However Gill senior went back on the roof to retrieve some tools when the skylight gave way. He spent a week in hospital and was off work for three months. The prosecutor said: "It is accepted that there was no risk assessment and no safe system of work to address the risks of working at height. Neither Gill nor his son had been given training for roof work."

Kingmoor chief executive Ross Nicholson pleaded guilty on behalf of the company to a breach of health and safety law. Its lawyer said: "The firm is decent and reputable and had an unblemished record. Its response to the accident was exemplary, it had quickly settled a civil claim, compensating Gill, and given him full pay while he was off work and fully supported his son and wife. There were no systematic health and safety failings and the two maintenance men had used work at height equipment before. It is not as if they were not provided with personal protection equipment. They had all the equipment with them which would have allowed them to do this work safely. They were both aware that the roof lights were fragile. The firm also employs a health and safety contractor."

A statement said: "Kingmoor Park Properties deeply regrets the accident, which has been deeply felt by all in the company. Prior to the accident, the company had a good health and safety record and takes health and safety seriously and had no prior enforcement actions in 17 years of trading. The safety of employees has always been of paramount importance and it was not appreciated at the time that the documented work procedures were not sufficient."

## Who trained them then?



Spotted by a reader in the Netherlands, a man working from a boom lift we believe in Louisiana, USA. His large boom lift does not have quite enough reach and height so he decided to get by with the help of a large ladder. We assume he lived to repeat the exercise.