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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

Prison sentence for scaffold company director

UK-based Boundary Scaffolding has been fined £80,000 plus costs of £1,410, while director Jonathon Lee Griffiths-Clack has been sentenced to six months in prison - suspended for 12 months - and ordered to pay costs of £1,545 after an employee lost his hands and feet.

Jamie Mines, 32, was erecting a scaffold on 19th December when a component touched a 33KV overhead power line giving him a major electric shock. His injuries led to the amputation of his left arm above the elbow, right arm below the elbow and both his feet. He also suffered severe burns to his legs and back, damage to his vocal chords, and was in an induced coma for six weeks.

An investigation revealed that Griffiths-Clack and the company had failed to ensure a safe system of work was in place for erecting a scaffold under overhead power lines.

Mines said: "I can't put into words how it feels to wake up with no hands. I had five month old twin girls at the time of the accident, all I could think of when I woke up was the things I wouldn't be able to do, for example to hold my babies' hands again, draw, play catch or teach my girls any of the things that I had learned with my hands."

HSE inspector Ian Whittles added: "This incident could have been prevented had the company and its director properly planned a safe system of work and ensured the scaffolding was erected in line with HSE regulations. Due to their failings, a young father of five has been left with life changing injuries and the lives of an entire family have been changed forever."



Pam the scaffold instructor

Pam Agent of UK rental company Astley Hire has become the fourth woman in the UK to become a qualified PASMA trainer for the erection of aluminium scaffold towers.

Agent said: "I had no experience of putting up scaffold before, but I somehow just knew it was the perfect role for me. I'm so grateful to everyone at Astley Hire for putting their trust in me and giving me the opportunity to do this. There aren't many women in this sector. I suppose because it is perceived as a male dominated industry, but the numbers are slowly rising. My next goal is to gain my IPAF instructor certificate."



Pam Agent

£1,500 & 170 hours for scaffold inspectors

Scaffold inspectors Stephen Harper and Garry Arnold have been sentenced to 170 hours community service and fined £1,500 each after a man fell through a gap between the scaffolding and the building. In March 2014, the man, 49, was working on a re-roofing project and as he stepped down from the roof onto the scaffold, he fell through the gap injuring his spine. The scaffolding had been signed off as safe for use, but an investigation revealed that the inspections were not actually carried out.

UTN Training opens new centre

UK-based UTN Training has opened a new training centre in Crawley, near Gatwick Airport. The centre will initially offer health and safety classroom courses including IOSH Managing Safely and CITB Site Management Safety Training Scheme.



FASET edge protection course

FASET, the UK-based safety net association has developed a training, assessment and certification scheme for those installing edge protection systems complying with the EN 13374 standard. Graduates will receive a CSCS 'Edge Protection Installer' skilled worker card.

Successful audits for Safety & Access Korea

Two scaffold training centres operated by Safety & Access (Korea) have passed their CISRS audits. The company has been offering scaffold training for five years, during which time around 3,000 people in the oil & gas industry have received training.



First IPAF training centre in Denmark

Rival Denmark has opened the country's first IPAF training centre for scissor lifts, booms and truck mounted lifts. The company is said to have won a contract to supply aerial work platforms for a major new project in the Odense and we understand that the contractor is insisting that anyone using an aerial lift on site must have a valid PAL card.

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Columbo, Sri Lanka a team of men working on the famous Galle Face Hotel with the most basic of steel façade scaffolds.

