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Niftylift's Women in Engineering Day 2017

Niftylift held a Women in Engineering Day at its Milton Keynes headquarters and manufacturing plant in the UK Last month aimed at female students in Years nine, 10 and 11. More than 60 students and teachers attended the event. The afternoon included tours of the facility, engineering themed activities and talks from Niftylift's female staff members. The day was aimed at encouraging students to take up engineering, and help overcome a shortage of engineers in the UK.

Niftylift product support engineer Jane Harbige said: "Not many girls in the UK see engineering as an opportunity. It is our responsibility as women engineers to show that if you are creative, proactive, enjoy problem solving or thinking of different and better ways of doing things, then engineering is a great choice for a very exciting and rewarding career."



Students on one of the workshops.



Crane electrocution costs £97,000



Farmer JH Willis & Sons was fined £85,000 plus costs of £11,823.50 after loader crane operator, Edward Evans, 52, was electrocuted after the crane he was operating contacted overhead power lines at Holme Farm near Chester. He and a colleague were collecting scrap metal cages from the farm, which had been left below the power lines. While a yellow warning sign warned of the risk of electrocution, the strong, low sun and Evans sensitivity to bright light prevented him from seeing the signs from where he was. He had lifting the cages towards the back of the truck bed when the boom touched the power lines delivering the fatal shock.

Co-worker Thomas Harker ran around the truck to rescue him, but in doing so, received a shock himself. Edwards was pronounced dead at the scene. HSE inspector Jane Carroll said: "This tragic incident could easily have been prevented if the farm had identified and managed the risks involved with overhead power lines on their land, and to put a safe system of work in place."

CIS introduces skill test

US based Crane Industry Services has introduced the Qualified Crane Operator Evaluations (QCOE), which evaluates and highlights areas where knowledge and skill are strongest and where operators and their supervisors would benefit from more training or experience, most of which can be provided by the employer himself. Crane Industry Services travels to the location of the crane and the operator to conduct tests, whether this be at an employer's address or a job site prior to a series of a lift.

It then documents and certifies each operator's qualifications for the specific crane.

Chief executive Debbie Dickinson said: "Excuses don't work when an employer is behind on a job schedule or over budget, due to skill levels that are lower than needed to complete timely, quality, safe work. QCOE also helps employers fulfil the 'employer duty' to provide documentation to OSHA regarding qualifications and competence of operators, but the main benefit is safer, higher quality work."

Skills	Misses Points	Total Deductions	SW (2) Deductions
Comment to load	5 for time on move attempts in place Pass		
Minor Overthrough (designated controls)	50 each three load limits outside designated limits, 20 if load makes contact with planned obstacles		
Load Placement	50 each three pipe in rack outside the rack and/or 5 each three pipe makes contact with cone		
Minor Contact	50 each		
Major Contact	50 each		

Reach, Turret, Lull, Trolley, Hook into each target on first attempt and place in designated spot in one attempt. 300.

Mid-Load controls: 50 each block, 4 pallets and 2 power generator. Run same shaft, 4 encircling shaft and 1 confined space.

Skills Duration (operator, speed, operation) (boom up, hold down, swing, lower load, raise boom, swing and stop)

Crane and platform impact costs £20,000

UK roofing contractor Deans Construction was fined £1,000 plus £621 of costs, while its client Universal Coatings and Services was fined £18,000 plus costs or £823 after a man fell from an aerial lift after it was struck by a travelling overhead crane in May 2016. The man was using the platform to repair a roof, and was thrown from the basket by the impact. Thankfully he was wearing a harness and lanyard, saving him from a 12 metre fall to the concrete floor below. Measures had not been taken to prevent operation of the crane while the repairs were being carried out.

HSE inspector Michael Kingston said: "The risk of impact between the operational crane and the cherry picker should have been identified, and the crane should have been isolated from its power supply to prevent it being used during the roof repairs. Had these simple measures been taken, life changing injuries to the worker could have been avoided."

Who trained him then?

Sent in by a reader in Australia, a man working from a step ladder on the platform of a narrow aisle scissor lift, at a height of around eight metres. Being well above the guardrails, there is nothing prevent him falling overboard had the ladder slipped or he tripped.

