

# Are your staff properly trained?

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Access Safety Training

Tel: 0845 600 8573

Email: accesstrainingcentre@aplant.com

[www.aplant.com](http://www.aplant.com)

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](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing

We are adding a new regular feature this month, placed purposely alongside these training pages. We plan to highlight and report on incidents where proper training would have saved a life or lives, or prevented life changing injuries. In order to emphasise the importance that good training plays in reducing death and injury, not to mention costs and all the personal heartache and misery for the families of those killed or injured in such incidents. This month's main story comes from Canada.

## Canadian company hit for £62,000 for not training driver

All Canada Aerials Ltd., a crane and access rental company, from Mississauga, Ontario, was fined C\$125,000 (£62,000) along with a company supervisor, who was fined C\$10,000 (£5,000). Each was charged with a single violation of Canada's Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in the death of a new employee, according to the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

On Feb. 18, 2004, a new delivery driver, whose duties involved collecting and delivering aerial lifts, was at a customer's site to pick up a "Genie Boom". He was in the booms basket attempting to load the machine onto his trailer, when it "accelerated backwards off of the trailer". Tilting sideways it threw the driver out of the cage and into a tanker standing alongside the truck.

### The driver was not wearing a harness!

He sustained serious head injuries when he hit the tanker and was taken by ambulance to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, where he died ten days later. The incident occurred at Castrol North America in Etobicoke, Ontario

It was the driver's sixth day on the job, and a Ministry of Labour investigation determined that he had no training for, or experience in, operating the boom prior to being employed by All Canada Aerials Ltd. on Feb. 12, 2004. The ministry also found that operation of the boom or other lifts was not covered by the brief training sessions provided to the driver by the company. All Canada Aerials Ltd. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the driver was competent to operate the lift, as required by local regulations. In addition, a supervisor pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the driver was competent to operate the boom.



Beware of overhead obstacles

### HSE warn of Telehandler and aerial lift dangers

The UK, HSE has highlighted two specific dangers when using Telescopic handlers or Aerial lifts. The first involves the blind spots when reversing telehandlers, which result in a risk of hitting a pedestrian. This has been a nagging issue for the HSE for some time, with talk of mirrors and cameras being fitted. However much of the risk it originally highlighted concerns older telehandlers with rear mounted engines, few of which remain in the national fleet.

The other warning concerns the risk with aerial lifts of operators hitting an overhead obstruction, such as a beam. If the operator is then pinned against the controls, it can be powered up crushing him against the obstacle. There are around three or four deaths a year from such incidents, and it is a real hazard, which can be avoided by proper training and alerting those on the ground to emergency descent procedures.

### HSE to enforce alloy tower rules



"Through the trap" one method of safely erecting a tower according to PASMA.

The UK's Health & Safety Executive has said that it will start to enforce the recommended erection procedures for alloy towers, agreed earlier this year with PASMA, the Prefabricated Access Suppliers' and Manufacturers' Association. PASMA has issued a warning to everyone who owns, rents or uses mobile access towers, that enforcement of the new Work at Height Regulations is looming large. For full details see [www.vertikal.net](http://www.vertikal.net)

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