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New safety app from Ainscough

Ainscough Crane Hire has launched an application it calls MAAP for use by employees, to share information on benefits, company news and regular safety updates. It also allows crane operators to communicate 'near miss reports' in real time, with operators and engineers encouraged to share near miss experiences, so that they can all learn from the event.

The app can be downloaded to any smartphones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers. Human resources director Maggie Langford said: "The app fulfills a number of functions for the business and allows the team to feel connected to the business and enable real time two-way communications so that team members have a voice and can tell us what is happening in the real world."



Fatality costs Tata £1.54 million

Steel producer Tata Steel has been fined £1.4 million plus costs of £140,000, following the death of maintenance electrician Thomas Standerline, 26, in 2010. Standerline was inspecting an overhead crane at the Scunthorpe steelworks - then run by Tata - when another crane travelled over the platform he was working from, trapping and crushing him. He died instantly.

An investigation found that the company had failed to enforce its own safety procedures, despite having had two previous similar incidents, and had also failed to put in place essential control measures which would have prevented the overhead cranes from being operational.



Thomas Standerline

New training simulator

Serious Labs has launched a new Aerial Virtual Reality Training Simulator with scissor and boom lift modules to provide operator training solutions for the rental industry. The scissor lift module includes 18 training scenarios for slab and Rough Terrain models, with 16 scenarios for articulated boom lifts.

The simulations become progressively more challenging, isolating tasks around driving, lifting, and platform positioning. Each module will take a novice 75 minutes to complete, while a seasoned professional about 45 minutes. The system provides feedback on the operator's performance, highlighting strengths and weakness.

The scissor lift scenarios were co-developed by Nationwide Platforms in the UK, while Skyjack, provided guidance on the development. The simulator requires an internet connection for its cloud-based delivery system. The Aerial VR Simulator will be available from April for purchase, subscription, lease or rental.



Scaffold fall costs £101,000

Bland Scaffolding has been fined £100,000 plus £918 in costs after a young apprentice fell four metres from a scaffold platform in September 2016.

The apprentice, 16, was passing roof tiles from a loading bay to a colleague on the scaffold when he caught his foot in a gap between scaffold platform and loading bay. He fell backwards to the ground, sustaining injuries including a fractured cheekbone, broken wrist, plus injuries to his ribs and a cut above his left eye. HSE inspector Trisha Elvy said: "This case highlights the importance of following well-known industry guidance to design and erect scaffolding in a safe manner, a fall from this height could easily have been fatal."

Hiab helps school project

Hiab has helped Year 2 students at Bredbury Green Primary School in Stockport, UK working on a project 'how to rescue a man trapped in a submarine at the bottom of the ocean by a giant rock'.

The students decided they needed to build a crane to lift the rock out of the ocean. Teacher Chris Holt and his assistant used Facebook to find a real crane for the children to see at close quarters. A member of Hiab's marketing team saw the request and offered to help, with Nortons Hiab Services taking a Volvo FH 450/460 tractor unit with Hiab 622E-6 HiPro crane to the school to show the class what the machine can do. Holt said: "We didn't tell the children the crane was coming, so the noise that erupted when they saw it was crazy. They were so excited. The children picked up on so many little bits of information that we wouldn't have learnt from just looking at pictures of cranes that we can now apply to our own crane that we are building."



Who trained him then?

From somewhere in the USA, a man walking a plank resting on the roll out extension of a 32ft slab scissor, to reach a light. The plank only retained by a colleague acting as a counterbalance. The dangers/risks need no explanation.

