Are your staff properly trained?

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Fines and criminal investigation for crane incident

Washington state has fined three companies following a fatal tower crane collapse in Seattle in April. A \$70,000 fine was handed down to tower crane rental company Morrow Equipment, which supplied the crane to general contractor GLY, which was fined \$25,000, while Northwest Tower Crane Service which provided the crane dismantling crew was fined \$12,000.

The incident, which took four lives, was described as "totally avoidable". The crane came down after being hit by a strong gust of wind after the team had already removed the bolts between the tower sections and slackened off the foundation bolts, ignoring the manufacturer's instructions which state that pins should only be removed one section at a time after it has been

secured to the crane taking the tower down. The gust caused the crane to sway and collapse into the street. Morrow was most culpable because it had an expert on site, while the other companies were cited for not having a supervisor present, inadequate training or other violations. Criminal charges may also follow.



Pal + VR training

UK rental company Plantfinder is trialling an IPAF/Serious Labs virtual reality training simulator at its depot in Kilmarnock, Scotland for the practical test of the PAL+ qualification.

If the trials are successful IPAF says it will look to fully develop IPAF PAL+ as an eLearning and virtual reality course, by developing a digital version of the theory module and simulated pre-use inspection.



Fall costs £71,000

UK construction company MP Building has been fined £65,000 plus costs of £6,298.82 after an employee was injured in a fall from height. In May 2017, the man, 36, climbed up to remove a nail from a brace holding trusses, one of which came away taking him with it.

Raised safety decking used as fall mitigation within the building did not cover the whole area and left significant gaps. The man sustained nerve and tissue damage to his lower back, whiplash to his neck and a finger injury. An investigation found that MP's risk assessments failed to implement control measures on internal falls and decking. It was also found that those working on the site were not trained to install the safety decking.

Fatal farm fall

UK farm A Kirkham & Son has been fined £12,000 plus costs of £6.296.32 after an employee died after falling from a ladder whilst loading a straw spreader in July 2018. The man was cutting bale strings when he fell from the ladder, causing fatal head injuries. An investigation found there was no suitable risk assessment or safe system of work in place for the operation.



Caa training

Liebherr trip for Star of the Future

The winner of the inaugural CPA Lifting Technician Star of the Future Award, Niki Fitzgerald of Select Plant Hire, has completed the trip to Liebherr's Ehingen crane plant that he won.

It included a tour of production areas, while Fitzgerald was also given a chance to operate one of the company's prototype All Terrain cranes undergoing testing - the first non-Liebherr employee to do so.



New Manitou training facility

Manitou has opened a new training centre near its headquarters in

Ancenis, France, The 1,600 square metre facility will be used to train technicians to maintain, service and repair Manitou products, and features four 200 to 300 square metre workshops, along with three study rooms and a recording studio, which Manitou says will help to meet the increase in demand from its training facilities around the world.



Who trained him then?



Spotted in north London, a man working on a window sill at a height of around five metres - seven or eight metres if you count the drop into the basement - with no safety gear whatsoever. While balancing on the narrow windowsill, he is using at least one hand to carry out his work. On top of the fall which would almost prove life changing at best, he could also land on the railing spikes, adding a different type of injury.