Are your staff properly trained?

Don't risk it! Call a certified local company today.

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**

Simulators for New York union

The Albany, New York-based chapter of the International Union of Operating Engineers - IUOE Local 158 - has taken delivery of a Vortex training simulator. Developed by CM Labs, the simulator has a full suite of models allowing it to be used in the training of operators for Rough Terrain cranes, crawler cranes and flat top tower cranes.

IUOE Local 158 represents heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and surveyors in Upstate New York most of whom work in the regional construction industry. One of the key justifications for acquiring the simulator is the often severe winter weather, which tends to restrict training to the classroom from November to February, while the simulator will allow hands on type training throughout the year. At the same time trainees will benefit from realistic job site scenarios and challenges, which would be hard to replicate in the training centre yard. The union also uses the same CM simulators for training on other equipment such as telehandlers, wheel loaders and excavators.

Training director Bill Gray said: "The new simulator is opening up new training possibilities, and resulting in faster, more effective training for apprentices. You are not just putting them in a piece of machinery and hoping for the best. We have had seasoned operators that are among the best in the country get on this thing, and they can't believe how useful the learning exercises are for trainees in terms of complexity."

Manlift offers VR training

Middle East-based aerial lift rental specialist Manlift has started offering virtual reality operator training for boom and scissor lifts.

The company has purchased a simulator and programmes from Serious Labs of Canada, which combines its active simulator platform with scissor and boom lift modules developed in partnership with IPAF and Skyjack to provide operator skills training and evaluation. The situations become progressively harder as the trainee moves through the programme, and at the end of each section, detailed feedback is provided about the operator's performance. The company is offering the virtual reality training alongside other courses such as PASMA and safety awareness training at its centres in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Trainee operators using the Virtual Reality simulator.

Fall costs £14,200

UK-based Langaton Steel Fabrications has been fined £12,000 plus costs of £2,228.70 after an employee fell through a filling station canopy.

In August 2017, a 19 year old man employed by Mark Dayment, trading as Langaton Steel Fabrications, was replacing the canopy in Barnstaple, Devon. Whilst assisting a colleague, he inadvertently stepped off an unguarded walkway and fell through the thin metal sheeting, dropping 7.5 metres onto the concrete forecourt below. He suffered serious head injuries, a broken pelvis and a broken wrist. An investigation found that the work was not properly planned, appropriately supervised or carried out in a safe manner, and the company was found guilty of breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

CIS hosts open house and workshop

US-based crane and rigging training company Crane Industry Services (CIS) has held an open house at its new 826 square metre Centered on Safety Training Centre in Carrollton, Georgia. Around 40 customers, vendors, and members of the local business community attended the event which was followed by a workshop for local female students, providing an opportunity for them to learn about various construction professions, while also being shown how to tie rigging knots and having sessions on crane operator simulators.

Chief executive Debbie Dickinson said: "The girls really got into it. They made connections about thinking through decisions and being aware of their decisions and surroundings. We talked about how the construction world has changed. Once upon a time jobs were only for men because it took brute strength to do the job. That's not necessarily true anymore because equipment is more sophisticated today."

Participants in the workshop learned how to tie rigging knots

Who trained him then?

Spotted in London, UK, a man replacing a double glazed window unit on the first floor of a building with little consideration for the risks. Having climbed out onto the narrow ledge, he proceeds to pull out the broken glass with little concern for the considerable risks involved. The job would have been far safer if he had some form of access equipment, or even a ladder would have lowered the risk of a fall. Alternatively a harness and lanyard might have helped?