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Dropped load costs

\$240,000

New Zealand stevedoring company C3, was fined \$240,000 after a ship crane dropped a 15 tonne excavator while unloading it from the Aster K onto the wharf at Northport, Whangarei in 2017, narrowly missing five employees.

The excavator slipped from the rigging during the lift, an investigation by Maritime NZ found that no exclusion zone was in place and that the lift supervisor was unable to see the point from where it was lifted, or able to communicate with the trainee spotter on the wharf. He also failed to notify those working in the immediate vicinity of the lift.

Neil Rowarth of Maritime NZ said: "This is a striking example of employers' responsibilities to provide good workplace training and safe work practices. Five workers had been in the drop zone moments before the excavator fell from the crane. It was sheer good luck that no one was seriously injured or killed. Cranes can be dangerous and people working with them must be properly trained."

The excavator was dropped while being unloaded from the Aster K



Aerial lift incident costs £1.32 million

UK contractors Costain and Brenbuild have received fines totalling more than £1.3 million following an incident that seriously injured two men working from the platform of a scissor lift.

The incident occurred in during the construction of the A556 bypass in Cheshire in 2015. Costain was the principal contractor, while Brenbuild had been appointed to construct seven bridges and an underpass.

Work had begun on the building of a pier to support a bridge. The two men were working on a rebar cage attached to the structure, when it fell and struck the platform overturning it.

One man sustained life changing head injuries and the second a leg fracture. A third man only just managed to avoid the falling platform. An investigation found there was no temporary support for the cage and revealed that both contractors were aware that it was unstable and that workers on site had raised concerns. Brenbuild failed to stop work or implement control measures, while Costain failed to plan, manage and monitor construction of the central pier.

Brenbuild was fined £80,000, plus costs of £21,730.11, while Costain was fined £1.2 million plus costs of £21,644.51.

\$85,000 for fatal loading

Australian rental company United Access has received an \$85,000 fine for a fatal loading incident involving a boom lift in Melbourne, Victoria in 2017.

Delivery driver James Watt, 39, was in the process of driving an 86ft Grove MZ 86J telescopic boom lift from United's depot to his truck in the street outside, but as he went through the gate the platform extended into the road where it was struck by a passing motorist, catapulting Watt from the basket. He died a month later from his injuries.

Victoria County Court judge, Scott Johns, said: "The risk of a crash between the platform and a motorist was an obvious one. It was a present and identifiable risk and inexpensive measures such as bollards, a spotter to watch the roadway and a sign could have been used to make people aware of the potential issues."

Online AP training

UK crane rental company Ainscough has introduced an online version of its CPCS Appointed Persons: Lifting Operations training course. As with the regular six day course it covers codes of practice, safe systems of work and insight, with an onsite physical test at a training centre on the final day.

Ainscough's QHSE training manager, Jim Fleming, said: "We are proud to be the first in the industry to create an online training scheme for Appointed Persons, opening up the qualification to a wider range of companies and individuals. While it is important to adapt to the disruption caused by Covid-19, forward thinking initiatives such as this will remain vital in maintaining the high standards of safety that are essential within the crane industry."

An increasing number of UK rental companies have introduced online courses



Who trained them then?

Spotted in the UK, in the middle of a roundabout on an A-Road. Three men in a scissor lift with a large steel I-beam that they planned to slide into a building they were refurbishing with no traffic control in place and very little thought for the risks they were exposing themselves to or the safety of passing vehicles.

