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New suite of tower training courses

Access towers are lightweight, can be assembled and dismantled quickly and provide collective fall protection at all times. They come in a variety of standard configurations so, with the right training, you can use different towers for different tasks. PASMA has revamped its range of training courses to cover more tower configurations than ever before. The following courses have been launched/ re-launched this year:

Towers on Stairways for Users

This course covers stepped towers, which are designed to be used on a stairway – a spot where access is often tricky. They can also be used anywhere the ends of the tower will be at different heights. This course introduces delegates to techniques for working on stepped surfaces and enabling components such as portal frames and props.



Cantilever Towers for Users

Cantilever towers are useful for overcoming obstacles, like stairwells, window apertures, riser shafts or porches, as they have a platform protruding from the side or end of the tower that gets you closer to the area you need to reach. This course introduces delegates to techniques such as using ballast to balance a tower and enabling components such as cantilever frames and frame links. Plus, delegates will learn to navigate the different safe working load capabilities of this type of tower.



Linked Towers for Users

When you need a longer platform, two or more towers linked together can provide that extra space you're looking for. Linked towers provide a long, uninterrupted deck area and are most often used to span the facade of buildings, for work such as painting, plastering or replacing windows. This course introduces delegates to techniques for linking towers and enabling components such as walk-through or step through end frames.



Towers with Bridges for Users

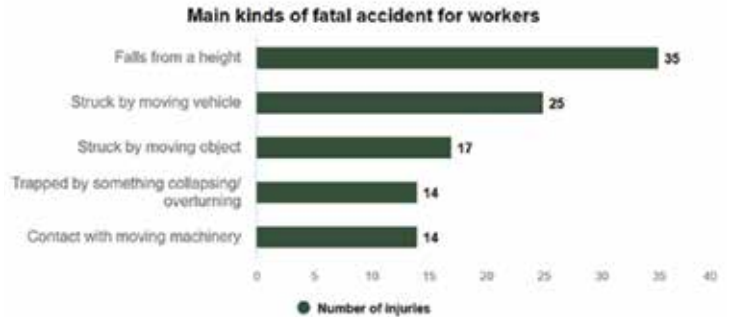
What if you need a longer platform, but there's an obstacle or access route at ground level? In this situation, you're looking for a tower with a bridge – that's two or more towers connected by a bridge. It's similar to a linked tower, in that it provides a long, uninterrupted platform area. The difference is it leaves a clear space at ground level so it can span an obstruction or leave an access route for vehicles or pedestrians. This course introduces delegates to new techniques for connecting towers and spanning obstacles, as well as enabling components such as bridge beams.



The courses are aimed at those who already hold a PASMA Towers for Users qualification and want to build on their existing knowledge to use towers in more flexible ways. PASMA training courses are available from approved training centres. You can find your nearest training centre at: www.pasma.co.uk/directory/find-training-centre

Annual fatality stats

The latest statistics from the UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show that 35 people were killed in falls from height while at work in 2020/21, making it the most common type of fatal workplace accident for another year running. It is also six more fatalities than the previous year, despite months spent in lockdown.



SOURCE: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/fatals.htm>

Man killed by falling tower in Brisbane

Andy Jones, 37, was killed by a scaffold tower which fell on him as he watched his son play an under 15s football match in Brisbane, Australia, on 25th July, reportedly in high winds. While the full facts are yet to be established, PASMA is reminding tower users of some general guidance for keeping mobile access towers upright:

1. Wind makes towers unstable and can cause them to overturn. If the average wind speed reaches 17mph (27km/h, Beaufort 4, or 7.6m/s), stop work and dismantle the tower.
2. Check the weather forecast before leaving a tower unattended for any length of time. If the conditions look set to become unsafe, dismantle the tower.
3. Stabilisers help prevent towers from toppling over. Even low level towers need stabilisers, if it's specified in the instruction manual.

While the cause of this incident is yet to be confirmed, this case highlights the fact that when towers topple, the consequences can be devastating. Andy Jones leaves behind wife Rhianne and their four children.



PASMA at The Health & Safety Event

PASMA will exhibit at the Health & Safety Event at the NEC in Birmingham this September, as members of the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and No Falls Foundation.



For more information about the Access Industry Forum (AIF) and the No Falls Foundation charity for working at height, please visit: www.accessindustryforum.org.uk and www.nofallsfoundation.org