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# International safety & technical advisor

IPAF has appointed Mike Ashton as international safety & technical advisor, bringing with him 25 years of safety, engineering and training experience from the UK, the Middle East and Australia.

He joins IPAF from Lift Industries, the Terex Utilities distributor based in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, where he was business development manager. Prior to that he held a similar role with AWD in Perth and was resources manager at the Elevating Work Platform Association (EWPA) of Australia. He has also worked with Access Service Australia, Rapid Access in the UAE, as well as AFI-Uplift, Nationwide Platforms and PTP Aerial Platforms in the UK.

Based in Queensland, Australia, he will report to Brian Parker, head of safety & technical.



Mike Ashton

## Don't let lights and decorations turn into a festive hangover

Putting up and removing seasonal decorations can quickly turn into a festive hangover if those installing them do not select the right access equipment, operators are not professionally trained, or they try to save time and money by failing to do a site assessment or disregard safe working practices.



IPAF's Brian Parker says: "At this time of year there are several key messages that we cannot emphasise enough in terms of working at height safely in public areas and next to roads, often in darkness or inclement weather. We appreciate people sometimes feel pressed for time, and that those putting up or taking down decorations want to minimise disruption, but cutting corners is not an appropriate way to go about this."

IPAF's Street Smart safety campaign highlights key considerations and risk mitigations when using platforms in a public place. These include:

**Plan ahead** - assess risk, use a traffic management scheme

**Be visible** - wear hi-vis PPE. Ensure vehicles are conspicuous and work areas well lit

**Manage traffic** - use temporary traffic lights, signs or cones

**Exclusion zones** - segregate the work area from passing vehicles and non-task related personnel. Position the platform so it doesn't overhang traffic or pedestrians

**Load/unload platforms safely** - in a well lit area, away from traffic or obstructions

Visit: [www.ipaf.org/safe](http://www.ipaf.org/safe) for further details.

## UK market reports

IPAF's UK market general manager Richard Whiting launched IPAF's UK Market Sizing Report at the recent Elevation event. The report, which provides a snapshot of the powered access market in the UK, estimates that IPAF members run around 82 percent of the total UK aerial lift rental fleet.

It is available free of charge for members, while the IPAF Global Powered Access Rental Market Report 2021, is also available at: [www.ipaf.org/reports](http://www.ipaf.org/reports)



Elevation Richard Whiting



Elevation conference

## Elevation 2021

The third IPAF Elevation event, held on 18th November, focused on sustainability, effective use of powered access, and engaging with contractors to work more safely and effectively.

After an introduction from conference host Craig Rooke of CTE UK, Peter Douglas of IPAF provided an update from the federation, including developments such as a new Site Assessment Course, and IPAF's drive towards greater sustainability.

Martin Hall, safety, health & environment director at Morgan Sindall Construction, presented Trials & Tribulations – The Principal Contractors View. He said: "If it wasn't for the work that you guys do, as part of IPAF, we'd still be 20 years behind in terms of powered access safety on sites."

Then Dr James Cadman of The Supply Chain School talked about how his organisation helps member companies and partner organisations understand how to do things more sustainably. The school itself offers all its resources free at the point of access.

Scott McCall, net zero specialist at Snorkel, considered how a move to greener solutions has influenced products, including things like verifying your own carbon efficiency for members of your supply chain, and the often overlooked measure of 'embedded carbon'.

Joe Hilton of JCB spoke of the challenges of producing construction machinery in the context of climate change legislation.

The conference was followed by a reception and dinner with entertainment from comedian and actor Ted Robbins. During the evening almost £2,000 was raised through donations and a charity auction for the No Falls Foundation.



Elevation dinner

## IAPAs judges named

The following have been named this year's judges for the International Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs):

- Nico Krekeler, head of design and development at Ruthmann
- Michel Petitjean of the European Rental Association
- Andy Studdert, past president of IPAF
- Jonathan Till of UK rental company GTAccess
- Euan Youdale, editor of Access International, will chair the judging panel but has no vote

The award ceremony will be held on the 10th March in London following the IPAF Summit.

