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MAGNI HANDS OVER SCHOOL

Italian telehandler manufacturer Magni has set up a new school - the Pietro Magni primary school - in its home town of Cavazzona, Castelfranco Emilia. The foundation stone of the €1.6 million building was laid in January 2020 with the fully furnished and equipped building handed over to the Municipal Administration of Castelfranco Emilia. It includes five classrooms, a canteen, gymnasium and computer labs, while the layout also suits the hosting of community meetings or extra-curricular events.

It has been constructed to be as

sustainable as possible and has an A+ energy rating, while meeting or exceeding the latest anti-seismic standards.

Magni said: "This school is our way of saying thank you and paying tribute to the community while providing the facilities to educate the talents of tomorrow."



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted by a reader in Nicosia, Cyprus last month, a concrete pump that had set up in the street, blocking half the road, and then proceeded to unfold its boom over the live traffic and start pumping, with scant regard for the potential risk to those passing beneath.



TRIPLE FALL COSTS £213K

UK contractor St Modwen Homes has been fined £200,000, with costs of £13,332, following an incident in 2018 in which three bricklayers fell 2.5 metres to a concrete floor after a temporary stairwell cover gave way. The men sustained serious injuries including a broken back and sternum. The HSE found that the company did not identify or treat the cover as a work at height risk and failed to plan, manage or monitor its installation, inspection and maintenance.

BRISBANE CORONER ISSUES SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

The coroner in Brisbane, Australia has issued a set of recommendations following the fatal overturn of a 70 metre truck mounted lift in 2015 which resulted in the death of Christopher Powell 41, while his son Brendan, 17, was seriously injured.

They were taking photographs of the views from the platform at a height of around 50 metres, for use by the developer of a high-rise apartment block scheduled for the site, for use with prospective buyers. The operator was controlling the machine from the ground, when one or more of the outriggers broke through the surface crust and began to sink into the soft ground below, causing the four axle platform to overturn. Powell succumbed to his injuries within minutes

of hitting the ground, while his son suffered life changing injuries.

In the preceding inquest, witnesses confirmed that the initial inspection of the ground indicated that it was very solid and stable. The site had also been used for several weeks by heavy trucks and aerial work platforms and showed no signs of weakness. The inquest was told that the ground failure was attributed to a 'pie crust situation' following rain and the use of heavy machinery.

The men had been in the raised platform for around 20 minutes when the operator heard a noise and saw a hollow forming around the base of the outrigger pad. He radioed Powell, saying "I have to get you down now", but the outrigger jack accelerated into the ground and the platform began to tip. The platform spun around with the boom landing on a boundary fence while the platform landed in the street. Powell remained in the platform which his son was thrown clear.

Coroner Donald MacKenzie's recommendations have now been published in an 88 page report with the aim of preventing such incidents. MacKenzie said that he found a hiatus in the regulations covering elevated work platforms which has resulted in operators regularly setting up on ground where they only had a gut feeling that it was sufficiently solid to bear the weight and forces applied by the outrigger jacks. A key aspect of his recommendations is that operators of platforms weighing more than five tonnes or

over 11 metres, receive additional training by geotechnical experts regarding the identification of hazardous and uncertain ground conditions and how to interpret geothermic reports.

The report also recommends a new code of practice be established akin to that required for mobile cranes, and that geotechnical reports should be obtained before such platforms arrive on site. The Elevating Work Platform Association of Australia will include new material on assessing ground conditions in its new e-learning module that will be freely available online.

