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# MORE REPORTS BUT FEWER

**FATALITIES** 

The number of accident reports submitted to IPAF's accident reporting portal has increased over the past year, while at the same time fatality rates for the main types of accidents have declined - an encouraging sign that collective action to tackle the underlying causes of accidents is starting to take effect. The information is contained in the latest IPAF Global Safety Report which analyses the data collected via the portal for the period 2013 to 2023, focusing particularly on year-on-year trends to identify how well the industry is doing.

While aerial work platforms and mastclimbers are statistically among the safest ways to work at height, the publication shows that 759 reports of safety incidents were submitted last year from 34 countries, an increase of 15 and 21 percent respectively. The incidents involved 831 people and 102 deaths, a decline

of around 19 percent on 2021, when there were 126 fatalities.

In terms of incidents resulting in death or major injury, falls from the platform remained the most common underlying cause, with overturns second. 'Hit by machine, vehicle or object' was third, entrapment fourth and electrocution or electric shock fifth. Mechanical failure was joint seventh with falls from the platform not involving an outside cause.

The top equipment categories involved were 3a - scissor lifts with 217 incidents (26%), followed by 3b - boom lifts at 197 (24%), and 1b - vehicle mounted lifts at 152 (18%). The most notable change was scissor lifts replacing booms in terms of the most accident reports.

Brian Parker, head of safety & technical said: "When we look at the data from 2022 and the key trends, there are some encouraging signs. For one, reporting has increased, in total and number of countries reporting. The other key statistic is that, while reports have increased, the number of deaths has fallen, this is cause for cautious optimism."

Chief executive Peter Douglas added: "I would like to thank all those who make this report possible: The IPAF International Safety Committee (ISC) and in particular, Mark Keily, who after two years as chairman will step down to make way for Alana Paterson, and of course all those who continue to input reports into IPAF's portal. Only by gathering this data can we continue to produce this report, that drives the initiatives IPAF leads on to make our industry as safe as possible."

Mark Keily of Sunbelt Rentals and chairman of the safety committee said: "We can never be complacent. Even while, statistically speaking, our industry becomes safer, we cannot accept that accidents will happen when using powered access equipment. We all must keep banging the drum for better and wider incident reporting worldwide, including minor incidents and near misses, which we know are so very valuable for helping analyse trends and prevent the more serious accidents occurring."



## IPAF ELEVATION UK 40TH ANNIVERSARY

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**IPAF GLOBAL** 

REPORT 2023

SAFETY

Mark your calendar for a special event on 16 & 17 November



to mark the 40th anniversary of IPAF's foundation, at The Belfry Hotel & Resort in the English West Midlands.

The venue has enough space for 250 delegates and will include lunch, an afternoon conference, reception and dinner with entertainment, with the option of a round of golf or spa activity the following day. IPAF's UK Country Council will meet on the morning of the event.

The conference theme will be 'It's all about the people' - focusing on recruitment, behaviour, working with the next generation and a look at what IPAF will be doing in the future.

Peter Douglas said: "We would be delighted if you can join us. For those who've already booked, we'd love to hear your key memories from the past four decades. Simply post on social media using the hashtag #IPAF40. IPAF will share these and feature some selected favourites at the event.

Visit www.ipaf.org/elevation for more details





### **NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR SWITZERLAND**

Roger Grossniklaus has been appointed as Switzerland Regional Manager. Based in the Lausanne region, he was previously managing director of Loxam Switzerland and worked in a variety of roles for Matisa, a manufacturer of rail track maintenance equipment, having made a career move from infrastructure and civil engineering. He will initially shadow Christine Lell in the role taking over full responsibility when she retires later this year.

Grossniklaus said: "When I heard of the vacancy for the Swiss Representative for IPAF, I was immediately interested, as the promotion of workplace safety is something I've always been passionate about.

