#### Are your staff properly trained? Don't risk it call a certified local company today



All training centres above offer IFAS/FASMA approved and oudled courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the sefe use of the coordinant they operate.

#### Ignored risk assessment costs £15,917

UK contractor European Active Projects has been fined £15,000 plus costs of £917 after exposing agency workers to unnecessary dangers while rigging and lifting containers at Chatham Docks last February. Photographs of the lifts were sent to the HSE by a member of public, showing a man at a height of over 10 metres attaching chain legs to a container so that it could be lifted by an All Terrain crane. A second man was five metres up, on a lower container.

The HSE investigation revealed that a risk assessment and a method statement clearly stated that the rigging of each container would be carried out from a boom lift. When the time came, the company said that it was unable to source a lift and resorted to using unfooted, unsecured ladders to access the containers. European Active Projects had previously received written advice stating that the company needed to improve the planning and organisation of its lifting operations following an investigation into a serious incident



involving a lifting operation.

HSE inspector Joanne Williams said: "The company had a plan but totally ignored it when it became clear a boom lift couldn't be sourced in time. It failed to provide any suitable measures to make sure the container structure could be erected safely and allowed dangerous practices to take place on site."



# Precarious at best

Two industrial estate managers from Morecambe in the UK have both been fined £8,000 plus costs of £1,681 after strapping 15 wooden pallets and a metal cage to a forklift in order to reach a street light.

Jonathan Shaw and Stephen Fawcett, secured the pallets and cage with a single ratchet-tensioned web strap, with nothing in place to prevent a fall, or to protect pedestrians below. Lancaster city council had previously warned Fawcett about the dangers of working from height, said that the arrangement was at best 'precarious' and at worst 'reckless' and dangerous to anyone using it or coming near to it.

Working at a height of nine metres with the use of a forklift, 15 pallets and a metal cage.

## Electrocution costs company \$164,275

Five Star Plastering of Laguna Hills, California, has been fined \$164,275 for a fatal incident involving two of its employees last July.

Daniel Pohl and Joshua Shetley, both 23, were erecting a scaffold by the side of Mission Viejo secondary school's football field, when Pohl was electrocuted after touching an overhead power line. Shetley was also hospitalised after being thrown from the scaffold when he attempted to help Pohl. The company was cited with six violations including a wilful-serious violation for allowing work to be performed in proximity of high voltage lines.

The company was also cited for failing to provide employees with any safety training or overhead protection.

Daniel Pohl and Joshua Shetley were erecting a scaffold when Pohl came into contact with a power line.



## Another shocking incident

Ashford Homes of Melksham, UK, was fined £20,000 with costs of £5,159 after a crane came into contact with an overhead power line in Trowbridge in March 2013.

Sub-contractor Lee Burge, 38, was moving sections of steel for the construction of a new clubhouse at the Trowbridge Rugby Club when the

hook block came touched a power line. Burge, who suffered an electric shock and needed to be resuscitated, now suffers from long-term memory loss. An investigation found that Ashford Homes had been warned by the electricity company about the presence of overhead power cables, and had received advice on the removal of the power supplies running across the site. However, no measures were implemented to divert or isolate the power supply with construction machinery free to operate beneath power lines.



Ashford Homes was fined after a crane came contracted an overhead power line.

#### Who trained him then?

Two men were spotted in Australia working from a large skip placed between an excavated edge and a building under construction. Shoring panels and wooden planks were placed on top of the skip with ladders used to gain access.

