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Fewer falls from height

PASMA has welcomed the reduction in the number of UK fatalities resulting from falls from height as recorded in the HSE's annual ill-health and injury statistics announced in November. Fatalities are down from 42 in 2014/15 to 37 in 2015/16, and total reported non-fatal injuries from 6,165 to 5,956 respectively.

However, of the 144 killed while at work in 2015/16, falls from height still accounted for the highest percentage at 26 percent, with 'struck by moving vehicle' at 19 percent, and 'struck by moving object' at 10 percent. 18 of the fatal falls occurred in the construction sector, seven in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors, and four in manufacturing.

PASMA managing director Peter Bennett said: "The downward trend is clearly encouraging, but behind the numbers are families, friends and colleagues whose lives will never be the same again. As an organisation we are totally

committed to supporting the HSE's new health and safety system strategy Helping Great Britain Work Well, and its long running construction industry initiative Working Well Together. We also work tirelessly alongside other member organisations of the Access Industry Forum to improve standards, guidance and training in the height safety sector."

"Together with these organisations, PASMA is supporting a move to introduce a more comprehensive and meaningful accident and reporting system to better inform access equipment design, guidance and training going forward.



AIF National Conference looks to the future

More than 120 delegates attended the Access Industry Forum's (AIF) national conference on the future of work at height at Holywell Park Conference Centre at Loughborough University on 13th October.

The programme included a panel discussion entitled 'Getting falls from height reporting right'. Sitting on the panel were PASMA's Peter Bennett, who is also the current chairman of the Access Industry Forum, Chris Wraith, technical and safety executive at IPAF, and Tony Seddon, company secretary at FASET, the trade body representing the fall arrest safety net industry.

With falls from height still the biggest cause of fatalities and injuries in the workplace, the panel discussed the need to get 'falls from height reporting right' and



the contribution that the member organisations of the AIF could make to that process. The panel delivered a brief overview of the existing system and what they believed were its limitations, in particular, the absence of structured and sufficiently detailed information to identify the root cause of an incident. According to the panel



it was often impossible to arrive at an accurate and complete understanding of the nature and circumstances of a fall from the information provided.

The panel proposed the following:

- 1) The need for a more comprehensive and meaningful reporting system to better inform equipment design, guidance and training going forward.
- 2) A greater recognition of the contribution that expert organisations such as the AIF could

make in evaluating and assessing falls from height and suggesting remedial action as appropriate.

3) The necessity for industry and trade and professional bodies to unite in advocating for change and innovation to the existing system.

Bennett said: "With the latest statistics showing signs of levelling off, getting the reporting system right could be one of the keys to helping unlock a further reduction in the number of deaths and injuries in the workplace in future years."

The following events were held the week we went to press:

PASMA Tower Safety Week 2016 ran from 14-18 November, with users across the country asked to show their support for tower safety and best practice.

The first Middle East Tower Conference was held on Sunday, 20 November with PASMA hosting the first ever Middle East conference dedicated entirely to mobile access towers at the Fairmont Hotel in Dubai.



International development specialist

PASMA has appointed Sarah Nunn as head of international development. Nunn joins the association from the UK-based Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) where she has been international business development manager since 2014. Prior to that she was international project manager for four years



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