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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See www.ipaf.org for full listing

## Incorrect equipment costs roofing company £9,500

Tower Roofing Ltd of Brandlesholme Road, Bury was fined £3,500 plus costs of £5,976 following an accident at Magnesium Elektron premises in Swinton in March 2008. Lee Bridge of Tower Roofing was cleaning out guttering at the factory when the fragile roof he was working from gave way. He landed on a stack of pallets more than two metres below, bouncing off and falling a further two metres to the concrete floor.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005. HSE Inspector Angelica Rutherford-Hacon said: "Mr Bridge is lucky to be alive and would have been seriously injured if the pallets hadn't broken his fall. The roof he was working on was clearly fragile and Tower Roofing didn't think enough about safety in advance of the work starting and put its employees at risk as a result.

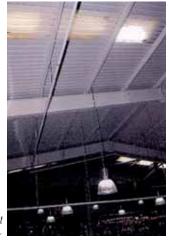
"Working on roofs can be extremely dangerous so it's vital that work is planned properly. Companies should involve the workers who will be doing the job and consult them about the right equipment to use. It is only by luck that the incident did not result in a fatality and I hope that it will act as a reminder to roofing companies to treat safety as one of their top priorities."

#### Fatal fall costs roofer £39,000

In another roofing fall CRN Contracts Ltd in Birkenhead, was fined £25,000 plus £14,086 in costs after one of its employees, David Battisson, 49, fell through the roof of the Range DIY superstore in Wigan, while applying paint to roof panel retaining bolts. He fell 10 metres to the floor and died in hospital from his injuries.

The company was charged with having contravened Regulation 4 of the Work at Height Regulations 2005, and Section 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

David Battisson fell 10m through this skylight into the store, which was open at the time.



### Lack of a safe platform costs £103,000

In another case the Property People (NW) Ltd was fined £92,000, plus costs of £11,404 after its employee, Harold Roach fell 3.5 metres through roof joists at a refurbishment site in Birkenhead in 2005 which left him with permanent paralysis.

The company was charged with failing to provide a safe platform for its employees to use and failing to report the injury to the HSE.

### Improvements to **CPCS** card scheme

The UK's CPCS training scheme for construction equipment operators has been modified in order to make it more responsive. which it hopes will offer more flexibility for employers to get their staff accredited. The following "upgrades" to the scheme will be implemented over the coming months:

- · The company's network of monitors will have more authority to deal with specific one-off requests
- Overlaps will be permitted between testing and training for some specialist categories
- · Logbooks will now be issued at the first red card stage
- · The CPCS card renewals process will be thoroughly reviewed
- Additional guidance notes and training materials will be made available on the CPCS website

Individuals will also be able to apply for a further red card (with a two-year life), while all 'grace periods' will be extended to 12 months, while the extension for candidates who appeal will move from six to 12 months to allow time to complete S/NVQs.

> The CPCS has a poster/document available detailing the upcoming improvements.



#### **AFI** apprentice wins award

Andrew Bracegirdle, a second year apprentice service engineer at AFI in the UK, has won the National Construction College's Plant Mechanics-Access Platforms Award. Bracegirdle received a trophy, plaque, cordless drill and £50 of vouchers along with £250 worth of tools presented by AFI. He will start the final year of his three year apprenticeship in November and will spend a further nine weeks studying at the National Construction College's Bircham Newton site, near King's Lynn.



#### Who trained him then?



We are not sure exactly what happened here, the photo comes from a building site somewhere in the UK. It would seem that the operator raised his boom while on a steep side slope or drove onto the slope with boom raised - the remodelling of the neighbour's car was the same either way.