

KEEPING THE JOB
SIMPLE

GSR SpA // Via Lea Giaccaglia, 5 // 47924 Rimini (RN) // Italy Tel. +39 0541 397811 // sales@gsrspa.it // www.gsrspa.it

GSR
AERIAL PLATFORMS

To the Brave

On behalf of Cranes & Access and the Vertikal team, we would like to join others in paying tribute to those people around the world that have continued to work in critical and essential jobs, often at serious risk to themselves, in order that the rest of us could avoid or limit the risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus. They are truly the brave ones.

They include but are by no means limited to:

- Health & care workers
- Emergency services
- Supermarket/food shop and pharmacy employees & suppliers
- Transport drivers - especially bus drivers
- Postal workers
- Delivery drivers of critical equipment as well as food & essentials
- Utility workers
- Construction staff/operators working on essential facilities
- Service engineers working on critical equipment

Hopefully more of us will appreciate the work you do throughout the year and not just in a crisis. We are certain that all of our readers will join us in saying a very big

Thank You!



The No Falls message

As Lockdown begins to ease and work resumes, IPAF is helping remind those who work at height of the latest message from The No Falls Foundation - 'Be Safe, Don't Fall, Stay Alive!'

The No Falls Foundation is a UK charity dedicated to preventing falls from height and helping people affected by the life changing consequences of a fall and IPAF is one of the charity's supporting member organisations. Chairman of the trustees Peter Bennett says: "Falls from height are the single biggest cause of workplace deaths and one of the main causes of major injuries. It is therefore imperative that safety is not compromised for the sake of productivity."

IPAF chief executive Peter Douglas added: "As output levels return to normal and some sites increase working hours and add extra staff and machines to make up for lost time, it is important to emphasise these simple but vital messages to remind everyone to stay safe when working at height, especially when many have been off site for an extended period and may take some time to get back into their routines. This is a critical time to remind people of their responsibilities for themselves and others while working at height, and to resist any pressure or temptation to cut corners or skip vital safety procedures in an attempt to catch up on lost time."

The Foundation has three objectives - raising awareness of the risks associated with working at height, researching the causes of falls and providing advice and support to those affected by a fall - and is asking anyone who has suffered a fall and experienced its consequences to get in touch.

Charity manager Hannah Williams said: "We are looking for people to share their personal stories in a series of case studies on the Foundation's website - anonymously if necessary - for the benefit of others. If anyone would like to contribute to the work of the charity, we would be delighted to hear from them."

Visit www.nofallsfoundation.org for more information.



The future of safe learning

IPAF hosted an online seminar earlier this month on the future of safe learning, which looked at how Covid-19 has impacted training and learning in and beyond the industry, how IPAF has responded to this and how employers and operators can utilise different technologies to continue to learn safely.

Presenters included Kate Pasterfield of Sponge, a digital learning agency based in the UK and Darren Verschuren from Serious Labs, the virtual reality training solutions company.

Peter Douglas said: "While governments globally seek to restart their economies and people are getting back to work, operators and employers need to feel confident that the new training environment is safe. New technologies and eLearning can support these safety regimes and offer alternatives to traditional training environments."

IPAF has produced guidance to help training centres get back to work and hosted online seminars to address the safe operating of aerial work platforms in the current climate. Over the coming months, we will add further seminars to provide insight and address some of the real issues our members are facing in the current situation."



Online interactive training for managers

In response to new safety guidance given to all IPAF Training Centres, Nationwide Platforms hosted an online instructor led 'IPAF MEWPs for Managers' course for major contractor Skanska. The course, which would normally be taught in a classroom, was held online with a video conferencing platform. The instructor-led training allows those who supervise or plan work at height to remotely receive the training from the comfort and safety of their home or office.

The course has the same safety advantages of eLearning but allows the instructor to replicate all elements of the face to face course that would normally be carried out in the classroom for multiple candidates at the same time. The instructor can interact with the delegates and answer any questions or queries they may have, as well as provide feedback specific to their learning. This new method of training delivery also facilitates group discussions and can accommodate smaller breakout sessions if required.

Buying a used platform

Aerial work platforms provide a safe and efficient means from which to conduct temporary work at height, and more end users are considering purchasing a unit or two for their own use. Many buyers understandably look at buying a used, pre-owned or second hand platform. When considering such a machine remember that it must comply with all applicable safety legislation and meet the relevant standards in the location where it will be operating before it can be used. Every platform must be supplied in a safe working condition, with all safety devices functional.

IPAF has published a Guidance note entitled 'Guidance on buying a pre-owned MEWP'. It can be downloaded free of charge from the IPAF web site.

