

ASTON UNIVERSITY BIM COURSE

Aston University will launch the UK's first level seven credit bearing Building Information Modelling (BIM) course in September. Aimed at professionals and recent graduates, the 150 hour programme will focus on Autodesk Revit, Navisworks Manage and the current BIM ISO 19650 standards.

Led by Dr Kenneth Park, who has a background in construction management and engineering, the course will emphasise collaboration, waste reduction and efficiency through the use of digital 3D models.



PLATFORM FALL COSTS £246K

UK contractor Henry Construction Projects has been fined £234,000 plus £12,369 in costs after employee Ovidiu Dobra fell three metres from a platform in Kensington, London in 2021.

Dobra, 51, was working carrying out demolition work from the platform when it collapsed, throwing him to the ground. He sustained serious injuries to both legs which has left him with long term difficult with mobility, movement, basic functions, and the ability to work.

The HSE investigation highlighted a failure to take necessary safety precautions for working at height. HSE inspector Saif Deen said: "Employers must control the risk of working at height to ensure that it is carried out in a manner which is so far as is reasonably practicable safe."



The platform prior to its collapse



After it collapsed

WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Spotted by a reader during the build-up for the APEX exhibition in Maastricht last month, a team - working for the MECC conference centre - using a scissor lift and a ladder to install a banner, with one of them seeming to climb the scissor stack.



\$8 MILLION FOR INJURED CRANE OPERATOR

An experienced crane operator, Matthew McGeady, received an \$8 million jury verdict in a Baltimore court in June after suffering a severe brain injury. He was operating a crane on a barge on the York River in Virginia in 2016 when a sealing plug dislodged from a pressurised pipe and struck him. His physical recovery was accompanied by personality changes, including volatility, difficulty concentrating and rambling speech. He was diagnosed with bipolar disorder caused by the traumatic brain injury.

McGeady and his wife, Kimberly, were awarded \$5 million and \$3 million respectively for his injury and loss of companionship. The lawsuit - filed under maritime law bypassing Maryland's cap on non-economic damages - argued that Corman Marine Construction failed to provide a hazard free environment. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) also found a serious violation of safety regulations under the Longshoremen and Harbor Workers Compensation Act.

PRISON FOR FATAL FALL

Patrick McCarthy, operating as All Care Home Improvements, has been sentenced to 14 months in prison following a fatal incident on one of his projects in Neasden, North London in 2019.

Andrei-Ionel Hutanu, 33, was repairing the pitched roof of a commercial building while working from a roofing ladder. He slipped and fell five metres onto a concrete surface, suffering a fractured neck and severe head injuries. He died in hospital a week later. McCarthy had neglected to implement basic work at height safety measures such as the use of scaffold or taking other precautions to prevent falls.

HSE Inspector Philip Jordan said: "Assessing and planning work at height is essential to ensuring that suitable and sufficient measures are in place to prevent falls from height. The custodial sentence imposed on Mr McCarthy should underline to everyone in the construction industry that the courts and HSE take a failure to follow the regulations extremely seriously and will not hesitate to take enforcement action against individuals or companies that fall below the required standards."