



JOIN US FOR THE UK & IRELAND'S LIFTING EQUIPMENT & WORK AT HEIGHT EVENT

For 2024, we are heading to our new venue, Newark Showground in Nottinghamshire where professionals from the industry will see the very latest that the Crane, Aerial work platform and Telehandler market has to offer.

If you want to get your products in front of the key buyers, end users and purchasing influencers, it's the place to be.



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MEETING AT
THE CATERING
PAVILION



WED 11TH & THUR 12TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Exhibitor registration now open www.vertikaldays.net

TELEHANDLER INCIDENT COSTS £128K

UK company R O Donnell Plant & Civil has been fined £80,000 plus costs of £3,784 while Readie Construction was fined £40,000 with the same costs, following a telehandler incident in September 2019 which left R O Donnell employee Anthony Pennell with serious long term injuries.

Pennell, 32 at the time, was using the telehandler to move packs of heavy pipes on a site in Lichfield managed by principal contractor, Readie Construction. While transporting his second load a skid was left dangling from the load. He stopped the telehandler and tried to adjust the load, but the pipes broke free and landed on him, fracturing his pelvis and several vertebrae, leading to a spinal bleed.

Pennell has been unable to return to work and now works in a less well paid job as a landscaper, due to ongoing pain and reduced strength. An investigation by the HSE revealed that both his employer and the principal contractor had failed to ensure safe work practices.

HSE inspector Will Gretton said: "This horrific incident could easily have been avoided had the work been properly planned and suitable control measures implemented to secure the load."



\$317K FOR LACK OF TRAINING AND PPE

Skinner Tank of Yale, Oklahoma has paid \$370,680 in criminal and civil penalties having previously negotiated a deferred prosecution agreement for a 2019 incident in St Joseph, Missouri, in which employee Tony Wilson, 56, died following a 17 metre fall.

An OSHA investigation found that Skinner did not require employees to use fall protection while working on top of a 17 metre soybean storage tank, nor did it provide fall protection training. It also revealed that the company provided inaccurate safety information to employees, telling them that wearing fall protection actually presented a greater hazard than not wearing it.



ELECTROCUTION COSTS £205K

UK company ASL Access Scaffold has been fined £160,000 plus costs of £45,000 after one of its employees was electrocuted on a site near Cowbridge, Wales in 2016.

Martin Tilby, 42, was using a loader crane to unload panels in a field where material was stored, when he raised the crane boom and came too close to an overhead powerline. The HSE found that no risk assessment had been carried out in the field, and no control measures were put in place to prevent contact with the overhead powerlines.

ITALIAN INITIATIVE FOR ECOL

The European crane and heavy transport association **ESTA**, used the recent **GIS** exhibition in **Piacenza, Italy** to promote and raise interest in the **European Crane Operator Licence - ECOL**. It co-hosted a meeting at the event with **A.N.N.A.** - the Italian national association for crane and exceptional transport - in order to discuss progress and adoption of the license.

ECOL seeks to address disparities in training across Europe, setting minimum educational standards, recording operator hours and experience levels gained, enabling site managers to easily verify qualifications. The hope is that if enough countries adopt or recognise the license it will not only help raise standards, but also increase crane operator mobility throughout Europe and even further afield.

The licence obtained **EQF** (European Qualifications Framework) certification in 2019 and is officially recognised in Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the Canadian province of British Columbia.

ESTA director **Ton Klijn** said: "At least 95 percent of accidents with cranes originate from the operator and not from the machine. That's why we believe operator training needs to be more robust and widespread."

ESTA also announced that it is planning a similar qualification for heavy transport with a 'European Trailer Operator License' (ETOL).



WHO TRAINED THEM THEN?

Sent in by one of our readers a photo of men trying to reach a light or antennae at a height of around eight metres or so. It has taken at least three of them, along with the company fork truck, a truck and a ladder to just about reach.

