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PRISON SENTENCE FOR BUILDER

Raffaele Vigliotti, 68, a self-employed builder in the UK, trading as Absolute Building Solutions was given an eight month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, during which time he has been ordered to do 200 hours of unpaid community work after a man fell to his death on one of his jobs.

The deceased - Andrew Layley, 69 and a friend of Vigliottis - was helping install a new roof in Reading in April 2023 when he fell sustaining serious head injuries. He died in hospital a few weeks later. The Health & Safety Executive found that Vigliotti failed to put any suitable safety measures in place for working at height.

HSE inspector Nicola Pinckney said: "This was a wholly avoidable incident, if consideration had been given to the well-

known risks of working at height, the incident could have been avoided. Due to Vigliotti's failures, a family has lost a much loved husband and dad."





ATLAS TAKES ON TRAINEES

German loader crane manufacturer Atlas has taken on 10 new apprentices - seven at its Ganderkesee facility and three in Delmenhorst - for training as industrial clerks, workshop technicians and mechanics.



POTAIN SAFETY SESSIONS

Abu Dhabi based Potain tower crane distributor NFT held a four day safety campaign across six construction sites in the UAE and Saudi Arabia with around 450 delegates attending the sessions.

The sites included the Trojena Ski Village at Saudi Arabia's Neom megaproject, the Sobha Hartland 2 and Sobha One and Binghatti Granada sites in Dubai. In Abu Dhabi it was the Adek Riyadh Schools project and Reem Hillz residential development.

Using the Potain Safety Handbook as a starting point, the sessions covered the effective use of crane

audio and hand signals, ensuring clearly defined safe work zones and individual responsibilities for upholding site safety.

Manitowoc sales director Jean-François Amet said: "Being present on site is one of the most meaningful ways we can support those operating our cranes. These sessions weren't just about safety rules - they were about open dialogue, exchanging ideas, and strengthening trust."



NEW 'BUDDIE SYSTEM'

Australian crane contractor Marr Contracting has become the first company to implement The 'Buddie System' - a wireless safety alert device that allows 'dogmen'/slinger signallers to instantly stop crane operations if something goes wrong, helping overcome shortfalls

in traditional two way radio communication.

Developed by Gary Panagiotidis and Jade Harris, the 'Buddie System' was trialled on two major construction projects in Sydney - the Metro Airport Terminal Station and the Sydney House mixed use development. The system was launched at this month's CICA (Crane Industry Council of Australia) conference. Marr says that it intends to roll the system out across its fleet in Australia and the UK.



WHO TRAINED THEM THEM?

Spotted by a reader in the UK: a number of people trying to attach a flag to a lamppost with the craziest access method.

With nothing more than a small step ladder they have collected wheelie bins and managed to stack them in order to provide a working height of around five and a half metres, still lower than they wanted. These bins do not stack well, it is a miracle that they held together. Also how they managed to get the top one into place is a mystery.

