

10
40 years
of IPAF

12
High Voltage!
campaign

18
Women in
powered access

20
Building
a team

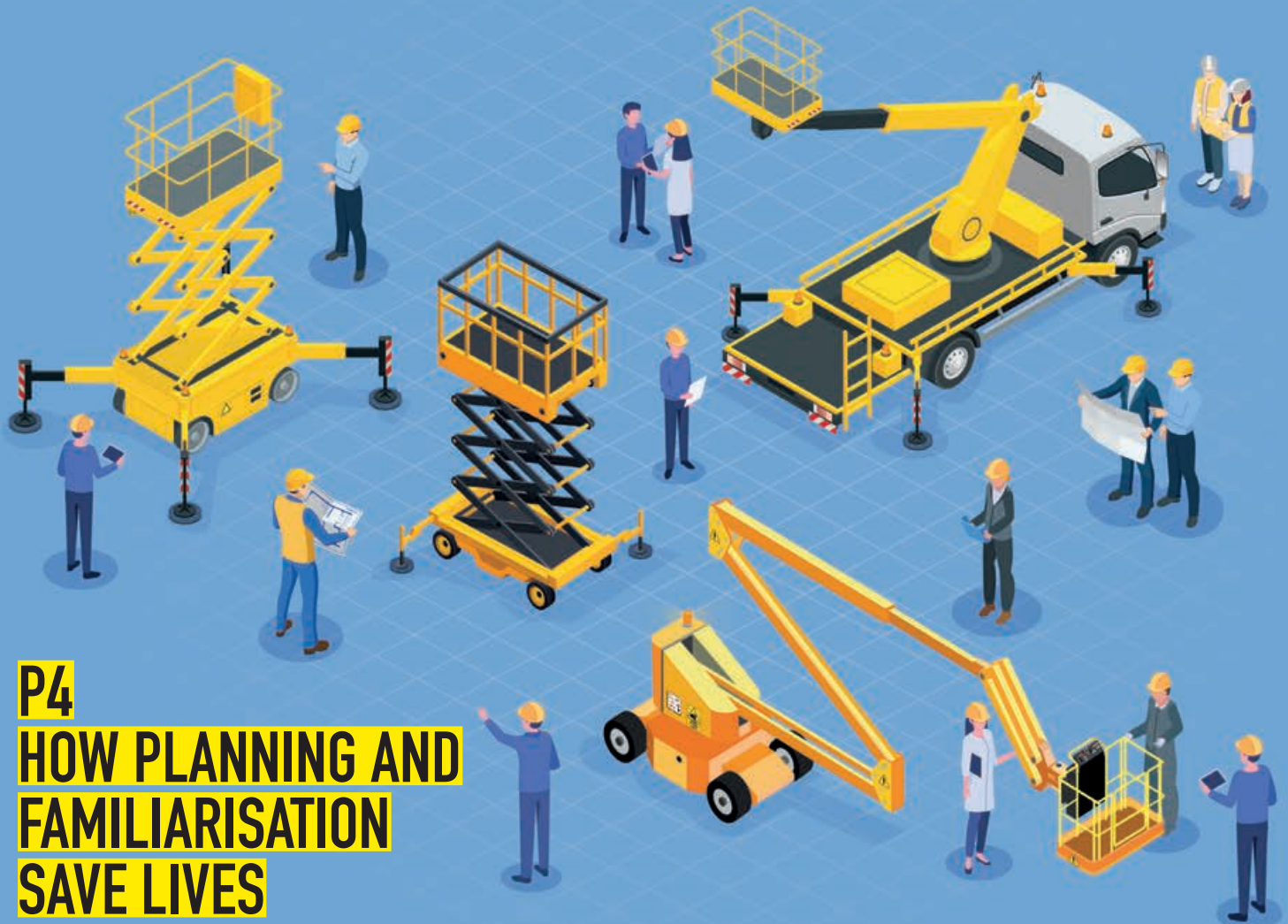
22
A survivor's
story

32
Directory
listings

IPAF

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2023
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∨ A challenging future filled with opportunities

This year's Powered Access magazine focuses on collaboration, diversity and inclusion. There are special features about IPAF's Women in Powered Access initiative, as well as on how to build a successful team, and a look back over IPAF's evolution as we mark 40 years since its formation.

Our Big Debate article looks at how contractors are working with specialist subcontractors and the supply chain to make work sites safer, including through adoption of digital technology, quality training, machine-specific familiarisation, incident reporting and analysis.

Our industry continues to face numerous challenges. Nonetheless, we continue to prove resilient, as companies strive for efficiencies through innovation, collaboration and the drive for sustainability.

Hope runs through many of the stories in this edition, from IPAF's coordination of a cross-industry response to the HSE's safety alert over certain types of MCWPs, to the story of fall survivor Jason Anker. He's a patron of the No Falls Foundation, of which I'm a trustee and IPAF is a supporter.

IPAF will be at several events this year, including UK Construction Week, BEPEX trade shows, Vertikal Days and Plantworx. We're also marking our 40th birthday in November with an event at the Belfry. I hope to see you there!



Peter Douglas,
IPAF CEO & Managing Director

∨ Inside



4 The big debate

Our panel of experts discuss de-risking working at height as well as the importance of machine familiarisation and reporting incidents

10 IPAF at 40

A look back at 40 years of IPAF

12 High Voltage!

Advice on working in the vicinity of power lines

14 Access in action

Case studies from arboriculture, events and telecoms

16 MCWP response

How industry sprang into action when the HSE issued a safety alert

18 Diversity

IPAF's Women in Powered Access initiative

20 Management

Building a successful team

22 Interview

A survivor's story: the fall and rise of Jason Ankers

24 IPAF news

Latest updates from IPAF

32 Member directory

IPAF member listings, plus key contacts

The big debate

WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE FALLS FROM HEIGHT
AND IS MACHINE FAMILIARISATION TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH?
OUR EXPERT PANEL ADDRESSES THESE ISSUES AND MORE



Why are falls from height still happening? What more can be done?

George Mosey (GM): From a Laing O'Rourke perspective, we've been trying to pursue a 'modern methods of construction' approach where we engineer out the risk associated with building. We remove the requirement for people to work at height to a large extent. As a consequence, we are having fewer work-at-height-type incidents.

A lot can be done in that space, especially around the construction of an envelope of a building, to reduce the physical number of hours people need to spend in and around that type of construction.

Craig Hook (CH): Even in situations that George is describing, have we really thought about the access requirements where we do still have to work at height? Where we can't eliminate it, let's plan it properly with sufficient details, so that we make sure that we think about that whole process – not only the delivery of whatever it is but also our MEWP from the moment we pick it to delivering it, getting it into position, being used and being removed at the end.

Brian Parker (BP): There is also a lack of specific supervision sometimes, on some of the jobs.

Mark Keily (MK): Planning runs all the way through this. You plan far enough ahead, design out work at height where you can, and then where you've got it as a residual risk, plan for that properly.

GM: There are tools out there at our disposal – digital tools – that can really allow us to identify and then communicate the risks associated with all kinds of things, particularly working at height.

We are pretty obsessed with the concept of the digital model at the moment. Building once, twice, 10 times virtually before we even step foot on site. Wherever possible we will now digitally plan all of our work. The digital tools are extremely powerful. They provide real transparency of what

is possible and what's not without having to try it out in real time.

The easy access – working on a facade from a scissor lift – is often well understood and well conceived, well planned and well carried out. But it's often the case that you are working on the corner of a building or within a lift shaft or where it's a bit more obscure. You are able to use the digital tool to pre-empt what is physically possible and whether the temporary works are going to frustrate access.

Is the issue of familiarisation as well addressed by the industry as it could be and how do you ensure it is carried out properly?

CH: Familiarisation is essential. One difficulty we have is that we don't know our workforce. The people that we used to have as our own employees are now subcontracted or sub-subcontracted, so you'll have people coming to a project that even the subcontractor's management team don't know.

When we had our own labour, we knew what they could do, we knew the equipment and that they knew how to use it. That made the whole process so much easier, whether it's a tower crane operator or a MEWP operator. So, ensuring familiarisation is fundamental.

But then with all of the programme constraints, you can get into a situation where a machine is being delivered

Planning runs all the way through this. You plan far enough ahead, design out work at height where you can, and then where you've got it as a residual risk, plan for that properly

Mark Keily,
Sunbelt
Rentals UK



before the subcontractor arrives on site. How do you then make sure that they are properly familiarised?

Making sure that you've got the team ready to receive the machine and ready to receive a proper demonstration from a representative of the rental company is really important. But making sure those things come together at the right point in time is difficult. There could be a tendency to rely on a supervisor to do the familiarisation, but then do they really know?

This is where I get so excited about IPAF ePal, where you can capture people's experience, the hours of use on a particular type of machine. That is really going to be a significant help to us to give us the confidence that somebody knows what they are doing or identify if they need a bit of extra training.

GM: I agree. We are equally excited about it. The realities are that you could have the most experience seasoned professional who has accrued 10,000 hours on a certain piece of equipment but they get the paid the same as someone who's literally just got their ticket the day before.

At the moment there is a crisis around professionalism in the industry. We need to reward those that have the experience and the competence and there needs to be an incentive there to people to invest in themselves to secure time-served experience. >

▾ The panel



George Mosey
Head of health, safety, and environment, Europe, Laing O'Rourke



Craig Hook
Head of lifting solutions, Sir Robert McAlpine



Mark Keily
SHEQ director, Sunbelt, and chair of IPAF's International Safety Committee



Brian Parker
Head of safety & technical, IPAF

These new digital tools, which hopefully will gain momentum in the industry, will lead to wider improvements as well and create an opportunity for a younger person to see a progression route through.

MK: It's a subject we've debated in IPAF and the Strategic Forum for many years and I do think it has got better over that time but it is still a long way from where it needs to be. So many times today, a contractor will tell us that he wants the operator to be familiarised but when the kit is delivered to site that operator is in an induction or is not available or the teams have swapped around. So we end up not being able to deliver the familiarisation to the operators.

There still is the opportunity for the hirer or the user of the equipment to call us and get back to do that familiarisation, or for them to use the machine in a safe area with an experienced operator to gain the familiarisation. But it is key.

Training is important but there are so many different makes and models of

machines that you have to spend that time to get familiar with the operating systems of that machine itself.

On this topic, the rescue element is crucial. There are still too many times today where somebody may be very competent and familiar with the equipment but the person on the ground doesn't know what to do in the event of an emergency, be that a medical emergency or a mechanical issue. So I think there is still a lot to do there.

Mark, can you/how do you impose familiarisation upon a reluctant customer?

MK: It would be really difficult to do in reality because we don't see the person who is going to operate the machine. So many times we just don't know who that person is. Also, more and more these days people are asking for the equipment to be delivered the day before it is required. That just adds to the complexity.

BP: I was an instructor for 25 years. Certainly, some days, the truck driver

That openness of sharing good ideas and good ways of working is really refreshing and something I've noticed in the last four or five years

Craig Hook,
Sir Robert
McAlpine

has dropped off that 180ft [55m] boom. We are asked to go in and four hours later I'm still familiarising four guys on that boom. But you have to take the time it needs to do it. You might have the contracts manager pressing you to hurry up but I'm not going to hurry up until I'm happy that I've familiarised them properly, because they need to know how to use it.

Familiarisation isn't training. It is a demonstration of the control functions, the safety features, the characteristics of that particular piece of equipment. We certainly know that some of the incidents that have happened have been down to a lack of familiarisation on the actual equipment.

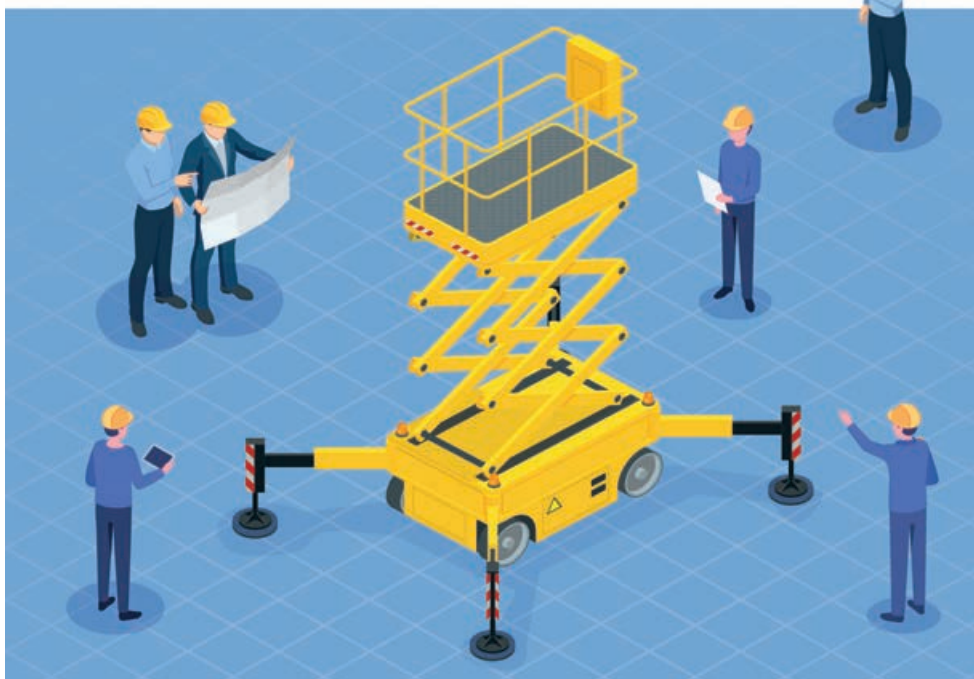
GM: We have a big tower crane division, Select. We start our crane drivers in simulators, with immersive screens all around. It never completely mimics what you are trying to achieve in the crane itself – it's never completely perfect – but it does serve a purpose.

And because there are so many different types of equipment and different brands, there will be a part for simulators of some kind in the future.

CH: We have looked at the use of VR but the cost is prohibitive. Unless you're on a large project and you've got a large volume of people that you want to put through some sort of competency assessment in the VR world, it is very difficult to make it stack up financially.

I think this is one of the areas where there is a benefit when renting a complicated piece of equipment with an operator who is already competent. The use of the VR system allows you to assess how well they know the controls.

However there is another way to work safely – where we are bringing in a spider MEWP we will probably bring an operator in with it because we know that those machines are hard to position. When you are trying to get them to where they are going to be used, that can be a tricky situation if you've got difficult ground conditions.



So, where we can, we might rent an operator with it and use someone who is already competent to help our team, get them trained up and used to it for the first couple of days and then maybe they'll go and we'll take over the use of it. That's been done a few times.

MK: We supply operators from time to time but not in a large way. But I agree that it is potentially a way forward for the future, particularly for complex machines. Even if you give somebody a two- or three-hour familiarisation, something like a spider lift is very complex: it's a lot to take in. So having a professional operator – rather than just 'you've got a card and therefore you can use it' – would be a benefit.

We don't have any simulators in my business. In my previous business we did; we invested heavily but unfortunately the demand wasn't there and it didn't really gain enough traction to take off. As Craig said, simulators are hugely expensive. The other difficulty is that you've got one type from one manufacturer, so all it does is familiarise you with the controls of a particular manufacturer's machines.

BP: I want to ask the contractors: what do you think about getting an IPAF demonstrator in your own team trained [rather than rely on the rental company for familiarisation]?

CH: Clients do not want to see another specialist member of staff that they must pay for. I think that the way we would probably have to do it is going down a single-source-of-supply route and making sure that on the larger projects there is a physical presence from the rental company on site.

The difficulty there, and we've tried to do this in our own business, is that subcontractors will have their own preferred suppliers and have negotiated their own preferred discounts. Trying to separate that out and telling them to use our supply chain starts to get very difficult and people don't want to do it. How we decouple it, I'm not sure.



Digital analytics tools such as Niftylift's Niftylink offer insights into machines in use

MK: Where I've seen it work really well – and you need the scale – is where you have an engineer on the site from the rental company, who's dealing with breakdowns, dealing with familiarisation and spends the rest of the time revolving around site checking the machines are still functioning as they should be. But you can only really do that on the large sites.

How important is it to report unsafe working practices and near-misses to share learning? How can we encourage people to be readier to admit to their mistakes?

GM: Why would a company not want to share its learning? Clearly there's sensitivity but I think we need to be bold enough to push past that. We are doing our best at the moment to share as honestly and routinely as possible what went wrong in our operations and what we can learn from it. We have an obligation in our minds to push that

What we have started to do is create a digital re-enactment of our incidents. It provides a much more accessible format for people to understand what happened

George Mosey, Laing O'Rourke

into the industry and I think we are doing that quite effectively.

We sit once every two months as a forum with other tier 1 contractors – since Covid in particular – on a call and review incidents. Recently a company had a problem with a hydraulic jack on a scissor lift and they shared that. As a tier 1 community and as an industry we absolutely need to share the learning.

What we have started to do is create a digital re-enactment of our incidents. It provides a much more accessible format for people to understand what happened. Some of these incidents are extremely complicated. There are many contributing factors and to tell that story in a coherent way to someone who might only be half listening is quite a challenge. As a consequence we are able to properly, and virally, share the learning.

The reason we started that, in particular, was because over half our workforce doesn't speak English as a first language. If you're trying to explain what happened and why, and prevent reoccurrence, you need to think of a new way of communicating that information.

Companies might be ready to share, but are individuals ready to admit their mistakes?

GM: The machines tell us a lot with their telematics. Telematics are so powerful now. There is always a challenge about people being nervous to share but these machines will share without their permission, going forward, which will add to this body of knowledge. >



CH: There's some work that we can do as principal contractors that can be shared – pithy inductions that can help for people starting on a job. On a mast-climbing work platform, for example, there might be one trained operator on the deck but there may be three other people that are working there.

To give them an appreciation of the risks that are associated with what they are doing – not only the tethering of tools and making sure that everything is clean and tidy, but your responsibilities as a passenger. What should I be doing? Or if the operator is unwell, how do we get down?

Some form of proper induction to help them – and not just relying on an initial familiarisation, because things change, including the people. You rarely have the same group all the way through the programme.

That openness of sharing good ideas and good ways of working is really refreshing and something I've noticed

in the last four or five years. There has been a step change. I think we've realised we all face the same pressures. We are all trying to work safely.

MK: The challenge is persuading people that [reporting incidents] is the right thing to do. The bigger contractors are getting better at this. Persuading people that they are not going to get into trouble for highlighting an issue, flagging it, reporting it.

On the International Safety Committee we analyse worldwide data and we are able to drill into it to understand where the real issues are. That helps us to drive campaigns – whether that's toolbox talks, Andy Access posters, videos or a mixture of mediums.

Certainly we've found that using short videos is hugely beneficial because people don't want to read a two- or three-page document. They want to be able to watch a video, see what happened, see the lessons and then hopefully take that on board.

BP: I run the accident reporting platform for IPAF. We never mention a brand, a company or any such information. It is all anonymous.

Be confident that those who report their incidents to IPAF will never have their data shared or their people named in any report. But we use it to produce toolbox talks, guidance leaflets and posters, which we believe benefits the industry. And it's all free. It can all be taken off the IPAF website.

Be confident that those who report their incidents to IPAF will never have their data shared or their people named in any report

Brian Parker,
IPAF

Enhanced IPAF accident reporting portal explained

IPAF's raison d'être is to promote the safe use of powered access platforms by the dissemination of best practice. Best practice is the accumulation of knowledge primarily gleaned from past mistakes. Reporting mistakes, therefore – regardless of whether they lead to injuries (or worse) – is arguably the single best way to enhance industry safety worldwide.

For this reason, IPAF's accident reporting portal (www.ipafaccidentreporting.org), launched in 2012, continually evolves. As of September 2022, members and non-members who log data can now access improved dashboard functions that allow them to track their own safety statistics against the wider industry.

Brian Parker, IPAF head of safety and technical, explains: "Until this latest update, IPAF offered a limited interface for viewing reports via the portal, with logged-in users only able to view charts ranking the incidents reported by company as a proportion of the total, which allowed rough benchmarking against overall industry trends.

"However, after extensive development work, those using the incident reporting dashboards can now apply multiple filters that will give a snapshot of member company incidents entered against all database entries, which of course are completely anonymised so no company or individual can be identified.

"IPAF's accident reporting has been going for 11 years; currently we are receiving around 600 reports a year from more than 40 countries worldwide," Parker says. "By offering a quick and simple way for member companies to tailor their own database read-outs, we hope this will assist in making those activities safer, giving something back to our members in the rental industry who have been enthusiastic supporters of IPAF's accident reporting since day one."

Report incidents



Please report all accidents and near misses to IPAF's reporting portal:
www.ipafaccidentreporting.org



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40 years of IPAF

THIS YEAR SEES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL POWERED ACCESS FEDERATION

IPAF was formed in 1983 from a merger of the International Federation of Hydraulic Platform Manufacturers (IFHPM) and the International Work Platform Association (IWPA), bringing together manufacturers and end-users for the first time.

When the IPAF operator training course was created in 1993, it proved a game-changer, both for the industry and for IPAF itself.

Training, and the PAL Card awarded to successful candidates, was the industry's way of promoting safe practice, which has always been the *raison d'être* of IPAF.

Despite its name, IPAF was largely a UK organisation for the first couple of decades, albeit with international participation. In the 21st century, however, came expansion, with

IPAF making its presence felt at international trade shows. Today it has more than 1,600 members with representation across Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

In its promotion of safe practice, IPAF has always played a role in the development of international standards. EN 280 for mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPS) was written in the mid-1990s, prompted by the 1992 Single European Act, and finally approved for publication in 2002. It was the work of many hands, but the leading figure was IPAF technical director Denis Ashworth.

Similarly significant was ISO 18878 *Mobile elevating work platforms – Operator training (driver)*, published in 2004 with strong IPAF involvement.

//
In its promotion of safe practice, IPAF has always played a role in the development of international standards

Another landmark in 2004 was the launch of the IPAF Rental+ scheme, giving hire companies a kite mark to demonstrate their service credentials – IPAF once again setting the bar.

Recent years have seen numerous IPAF safety campaigns, including *Good Practice Guidance for Reducing Trapping/Crushing Injuries* and the latest High Voltage! campaign, as well as the development of the accident reporting portal.

Training programmes continued to evolve, with MCWP courses, MEWPs for Managers, eLearning introduced and the use of simulator technology.

Such has been the success of IPAF, it issued its two-millionth PAL Card in 2020 and is on track to exceed 200,000 courses certified in a calendar year for the first time.

1983

- ↘ First IPAF annual general meeting on 1 October
- ↘ First council meeting on 14 November
- ↘ Paul Adorian is managing director

1987

- ↘ Membership passes 100

1988

- ↘ Mast climbing work platform (MCWP) committee established

1990

- ↘ Membership passes 200

1993

- ↘ Launch of the IPAF training scheme
- ↘ 325 PAL Cards were issued in the first year

1996

- ↘ First member in Japan – Aichi

1999

- ↘ First IPAF-accredited training centre opens in Germany – JLG Litra
- ↘ Training centres in Brussels, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Apeldoorn
- ↘ IPAF log book released

2000

- ↘ IPAF and CITB launch Certified Access Plant Engineer (CAPE) scheme to govern the maintenance of powered access equipment

2001

- ↘ IPAF introduces new 'specialised machines' category

2003

- ↘ Launch of US subsidiary, Aerial Work Platform Training Inc (AWPT)
- ↘ Paul Adorian retires as managing director, succeeded by Tim Whiteman
- ↘ PAL Card embedded in the Construction Skills Certification Scheme, with IPAF becoming a category on the CSCS card
- ↘ 100,000th PAL Card issued

2004

- ↘ Launch of IPAF Rental+ scheme
- ↘ Publication of ISO 18878:2004 *Mobile elevating work platforms – Operator training (driver)* by ISO Technical Committee TC 214, with strong

involvement from IPAF.

The committee was chaired by Dennis Eckstine, vice president of IPAF's North American subsidiary AWPT

- ↘ IPAF secures ISO 9001:2000 certification
- ↘ More than 40,000 PAL Cards issued this year

2005

- ↘ IPAF training programme for MEWP operators certified as meeting ISO 18878:2004
- ↘ Natalie Smales of Aerials for Industry (AFI) is the first holder of a new IPAF qualification for hire desk controllers
- ↘ Rapid Platforms (Hertfordshire) is the first company to achieve the new IPAF Rental+ quality mark

2006

- ↘ 60,000 PAL Cards issued this year

2008

- ↘ First IPAF Training Centre in Asia (BS Technology Pte)
- ↘ IPAF launches campaign to promote the use of safety harnesses

2011

- ↘ IPAF now has a member in every continent
- ↘ First members from Argentina, Colombia, Jordan, Peru, South Africa and Turkey
- ↘ First IPAF US convention held in Chicago
- ↘ IPAF issues more than 10,000 PAL Cards in a single month for the first time

1993

Launch of the IPAF training scheme – 325 PAL Cards were issued in the first year



2015

Birth of Andy Access safety campaign



2021

IPAF ePAL app launched

2003

Launch of US subsidiary Aerial Work Platform Training Inc (AWPT)



2018

IPAF launches consultation on use of VR, AR and simulators in MEWP training and safety awareness courses



2012

- IPAF accident reporting scheme launched
- IPAF launches the PAL+ training course

2013

- Machine-readable Smart PAL Card is launched, available in different languages
- IPAF Summit and Awards for Powered Access (IAPAs) held outside of Europe for first time – in Miami, USA

2014

- Vehicle-Mounted Manufacturers' Technical Committee is formed
- IPAF Training conducted for the first time in China at rental company Tianjin Prosperity Bai-Li Engineering & Machinery

- IPAF now has 1,109 members from 53 countries, 640 approved training centres and half a million PAL Cards in circulation

2015

- Birth of Andy Access safety campaign
- IPAF participates in more than 50 events around the world in 2015, including the ARA Rental Show, Intermat, Vertical Days and Plantworx

2016

- IPAF introduces interactive e-learning for PAL Card candidates
- Training committee agrees new Pre-Delivery Inspection course

2017

- IPAF has four virtual MEWP and MCWP models accepted into the UK's

- National BIM Library for use in 3D modelling projects
- IPAF Asia Summit in Changsha – first IPAF event in mainland China

2018

- IPAF launches industrywide consultation on possibilities for embracing virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and simulators in MEWP training and safety awareness courses
- IPAF's annual report is published in Chinese for the first time, along with seven other language versions

2019

- Tim Whiteman steps down as chief executive, replaced on interim basis by Andy Studdert

- until Peter Douglas starts in December

- IPAF's MEWPs for Managers training is relaunched in e-learning, allowing all those involved in planning, managing or supervising MEWP operations to complete the course online, remotely
- IPAF's longest-serving employee, Jean Harrison, retires after 25 years

2020

- All valid PAL Cards in circulation worldwide are now smart cards
- Covid-19: IPAF AGM takes place virtually for the first time. IPAF issues guidance for those using powered access to help minimise the risk of spreading the virus

- Approval of VR simulators to assess advanced operator training

2021

- IPAF ePAL app launched
- IPAF accident reporting portal goes multilingual

2022

- IPAF worldwide membership surpasses 1,500 members
- Karin Nars (Dinolf), daughter of 1999-2001 president Lars-Petter Godenhielm, is the first female president of IPAF and the first second-generation president

2023

- IPAF celebrates 40 years
- IPAF processes more than 20,000 PAL Cards in a month for the first time

Attention... high voltage!

THE 2023 CONEXPO TRADE SHOW IN LAS VEGAS IN MARCH SAW THE LAUNCH OF A NEW IPAF SAFETY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT REDUCING ELECTROCUTIONS

When IPAF's International Safety Committee conducts its regular analysis of incident data, trawling through the nature and causes of fatal or injurious accidents involving powered access, the same three categories continually reoccur: falls from the platform; stability/overturn of the machine; and electrocutions.

As the annual *IPAF Global Safety Report* sets out in detail, electrocution is the second biggest killer in the powered access sector. Falls from the platform lead to most deaths, but there is not much between them. And whereas falls are not necessarily fatal, incidents involving a person or machine coming into contact or near-proximity with power lines nearly always are.

Electrocutions are much more prevalent for users of powered access in North America than they are in the UK. Over the past 10 years more than 80% of electrocution incidents reported to IPAF have been in the US. It is for this reason that North America's biggest trade show for construction machinery, ConExpo, provided an appropriate venue for the launch of IPAF's latest safety campaign, called High Voltage!

Brian Parker, IPAF head of safety & technical, says: "Similar to IPAF's Don't Fall For It! targeted safety campaign, which is aimed at reducing falls from the platform – another of the most common causes of serious injuries and fatalities when using powered access – the High Voltage! campaign aims to raise awareness of risks involved when

using MEWPs around power lines, and how to plan for safe working.

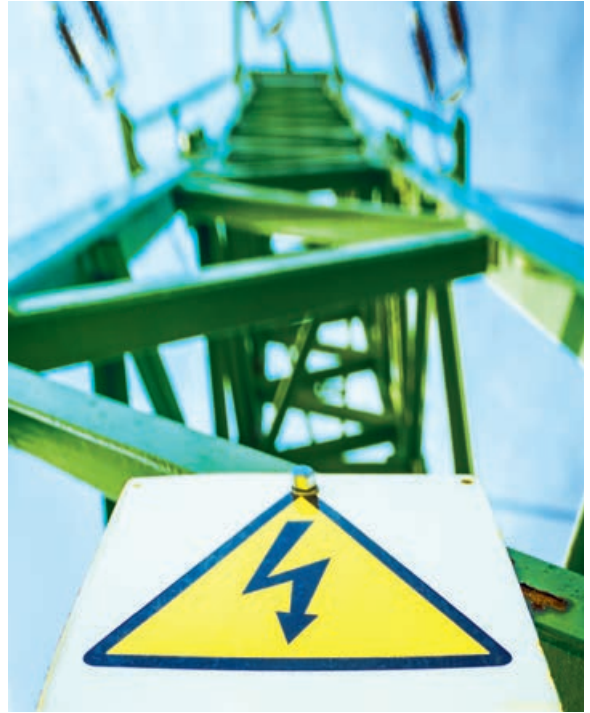
"With a significant proportion of the reports of serious injury and fatalities originating in the US, it made sense to launch this campaign at ConExpo."

It would be wrong, however, to think that this type of incident does not also happen in the UK. In January this year, Kier was fined more than £4m following two separate incidents, in 2018 and 2019, on the same motorway improvement project on the M6 near Sandbach in Cheshire. Neither incident involved powered access – in both, raised lorry loader cranes brought down low-hanging 11kV cables. Fortunately, no-one was killed in the incidents, despite a cable landing on the live motorway on the second occasion.

And in October 2021 a Bridgend scaffolding company was fined £200,000 for a 2016 incident that did prove fatal for an employee when a lorry loader crane (again) that he was operating struck an overhead power line.

When it comes to electrocutions involving MEWPs, the most likely locations are in public areas or alongside roads, rather than on controlled construction sites.

The arboriculture industry is the primary industry where platform occupants have been electrocuted, mainly using static boom (type 1b) MEWPs. Clear-up work after storm damage is a recurring motif in US electrocution statistics. It is easy to imagine how an 'all hands on deck'



emergency scenario can sometimes lead to safety compromises.

Though the majority of electrocutions involve contact with an overhead power line, electrocutions have also been reported in workshops with overhead cranes and live busbars.

It is not just platform operators and occupants being killed – ground personnel have been killed by arcing of electricity and/or while using ground controls to attempt to rescue people at height. It is for this reason that IPAF's campaign avoids reference to 'overhead' power lines. Even when power lines are over the heads of most people, they may actually be below operatives in an elevated basket.

As with IPAF's 2022 campaign Don't Fall For It!, this year's campaign again features Andy Access, the IPAF mascot, in lead role, seeking to raise awareness of the issues. Supporting material includes a 15-second video featuring Andy Access elevating into a power line, with inevitably shocking results.

IPAF has issued new guidance on the use of MEWPs near power lines



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S3970RTE

SL26RTE

SL30RTE

SR626E

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Access in action

POWERED ACCESS PROVIDES ESSENTIAL SAFE WORKING AT HEIGHT ACROSS A WIDE RANGE OF INDUSTRIAL SECTORS, AS THESE CASE STUDIES DEMONSTRATE

The Hinowa Lightlift 17.75 has a maximum working height of 17.06m, a maximum horizontal outreach of 7.5m and a basket capacity of 230kg



Arboriculture

According to the Woodland Trust, ash dieback will kill around 80% of ash trees across the UK. The effects will be staggering. It will change the landscape forever and threaten many species that rely on ash.

Ash dieback (*hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is a fungus that originated in Asia, the Woodland Trust explains. “It doesn’t cause much damage on its native hosts of the Manchurian ash (*fraxinus mandshurica*) and the Chinese ash (*fraxinus chinensis*) in its native range. However, its introduction to Europe about 30 years ago has devastated the European ash (*fraxinus excelsior*) because our native ash species did not evolve with the fungus and so has no natural defence against it.”

It was detected in the UK for the first time in 2012 and is now widespread.

While this is bad news for natural habitats, since ash trees make up 12% of Great Britain’s broadleaved woodland, it is generating demand for specialist powered access.

To help clear diseased ash trees, Morris’s Grounds Maintenance of Rhadyr, in Monmouthshire, has invested in a Hinowa Lightlift 17.75 Performance IIS spider platform, purchased from Access Platform Sales. An early assignment was in the ruins of the medieval Tregrug Castle, near Usk.

“Without it, some of our work on this project would have been impossible to do,” says director Tom Morris.

“We scheduled 15 days to complete it.



Left: Sunbelt on site at a UK festival

Below: One of Swish Fibre's new van-mounted MEWPs

Events

Music festivals may just seem like a maelstrom of exuberance and hedonism – the good ones, at least – but they require military precision to stage. The stages, lighting rigs, sound systems, roadways, fencing, catering, camp sites and the all-important toilets are all set up for just a few days of fun before being packed away again for another year. Thousands of moving parts are orchestrated like clockwork.

In 2022 Sunbelt Rentals supplied more than 80 powered access machines to many of the UK's largest music festivals including Download, Trnsmt, Radio 1's Big Weekend, Leeds, Reading and Wireless.

Requirements include all-terrain scissor lifts in a range of heights, and boom lifts ranging from 13.7m to 38m reach, all backed up with telemetry, access control and safety features including secondary-guarding systems.

When working against tight (and immutably fixed) deadlines, machine reliability and rapid back-up from equipment suppliers are key criteria.

Telecoms

Swish Fibre Yorkshire is delivering telecommunication network improvements to towns and villages in rural North Yorkshire. Some 50,000 premises are getting high-speed broadband.

Work that used to be done from ladders is now done using powered access. Swish Fibre has two new van-mounted access platforms on long-term lease from Access Hire Nationwide, backed up with a fully managed maintenance contract. Making the switch to MEWPs helped Swish Fibre demonstrate a commitment to staff wellbeing, health and safety.

Access Hire Nationwide has a fleet of more than 1,400 van-mounts, with an average age of less than 30 months. The company is also an approved IPAF training centre.

With the Hinowa, we finished it in eight. It makes that big a difference.”

Morris's tree surgeons were tasked with removing up to 40 mature ash trees, some more than 25m tall, which had been infected and fatally weakened. The trees had been rendered so unstable that they were at imminent risk of falling onto the remains of the castle, and it was unsafe to use conventional rope climbing techniques to reach the canopies.

The only alternative was to work from an access platform. Morris had rented Hinowa spider booms before but a job of this scale made an outright purchase more cost-effective.

With a tracking width of just 790mm, the spider lift could be moved across the uneven ground and through the narrow entranceways into the heart of the medieval castle to reach the trees that needed to be removed.

The team could position its articulating boom within inches of the castle walls and arches, and place the basket in the safest positions to drop branches without striking the masonry.

Tree surgeon Simon Parsons says: “The Hinowa makes a huge difference. It's much safer to work from. It's also made almost all aspects of our tree felling operations much faster. Even where the platform hasn't had the height to reduce the larger trees, we used it to get up into trees to attach a rope and pulley system to guide the tree down as we felled it, saving us a lot of time.”

Morris says: “Ash dieback alone is going to keep the spider platform busy.

The disease began to appear in our area around three years ago. Now up to half our jobs involve working on trees affected by ash dieback.”

Jonathan Wiseman, regional sales manager at APS, the UK and Ireland distributor for Hinowa products, says it is a nationwide story. “Because of the debilitating effect of ash dieback on infected trees, similar teams up and down the country are quickly finding working from spider platforms is the only solution to a pernicious environmental problem,” he says.

Without it, some of our work on this project would have been impossible

Tom Morris,
Morris's Grounds
Maintenance



Anatomy of an alert

HOW IPAF AND THE INDUSTRY SPRANG INTO ACTION WHEN THE HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE ISSUED A SAFETY ALERT ON MAST-CLIMBING WORK PLATFORMS



A safety alert issued by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) on 5 May 2022 effectively grounded much of the UK's fleet of mast-climbing work platforms (MCWPs). However, thanks to an industry response coordinated by IPAF, most machines were safely back up and running within a few months.

The HSE alert – *Mast climbing work platforms: Failure to detect mechanical failure in drive units leading to uncontrolled fall of platforms (BSCD1-2022)* – warned that certain platforms were at risk of a catastrophic fall.

The HSE had discovered that some MCWPs that rely on two independent motor drive units per mast, as the means to prevent the platform falling with overspeed, were not fitted with suitable controls to manage this risk. If not rectified quickly, the fault could cause serious injury, or even death, it warned.

MCWPs without necessary control measures in place had to be withdrawn until those responsible for supply, installation, use, inspection,

servicing, maintenance and thorough examinations had ensured that all equipment was checked.

Within days IPAF's MCWP Work Group met rental companies to formulate a response. It was agreed that all users would be urged to maintain a rigorous policy of risk assessment when installing MCWPs and ensure conformance with best practice and EN 1495.

A week later IPAF met manufacturers to formulate an industrywide response. There followed a third meeting before the end of the month, this time with the HSE, as well as MCWP rental companies and manufacturers, to coordinate next steps and provide clarity on the issues raised by the safety alert.

IPAF subsequently held a webinar in October to give an update on the work done since May to maintain compliance with HSE guidance and to reassure contractors and end-users that MCWPs remain the safest and most effective way to conduct facade work on major construction projects. This webinar

remains online for free viewing at youtu.be/bsYTuNXiUzo.

“When the UK HSE alert was issued, it was initially a shock for the industry to deal with,” says Angel Ibañez, IPAF's representative for MCWPs. “Many construction projects were threatened with delays and uncertainty, particularly as manufacturers and rental companies in the UK made or owned fleets disproportionately consisting of the types of equipment referred to by the safety alert.

“Manufacturers, hire companies and contractors attended the several meetings that IPAF convened, in which it was decided that the industry needed to measure the likely impact of the safety alert – for instance, how many of the types of machines covered by the safety alert were in use in the market – as well as ensure awareness of the issues raised across the whole sector worldwide. IPAF moved quickly to help reassure end-users and the UK HSE that all machines deemed unsafe would be stood down, while trying to coordinate a robust response from a safety and technical perspective.

“As you'd expect, some manufacturers and rental companies were affected more than others. Some machines were unaffected by the HSE alert, while others proved relatively easy to upgrade or modify, with the manufacturer having a solution ready to go quite soon after the alert was issued.”

He says that IPAF provided the essential link between the supply chains and the HSE to clarify aspects of the safety alert, and to relay back to the HSE about how MCWP owners and users had complied with the alert.

The result, Ibañez says, is an industry that is now even safer than it was prior to the alert being issued – “and this is testament to the rapid response to the alert and the collective effort of all those involved in finding solutions,” he says.

Mechanical failures in MCWPs are rare; this one was in Spain in 2021

When the UK HSE alert was issued, it was initially a shock for the industry to deal with

Angel Ibañez, IPAF



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MCWPs & Hoists for Managers Training

This course provides employers, project manager and supervisors with the information required to ensure they know what is deemed to be safe and effective use of Mast Climbing Work Platforms (MCWP) and Construction Hoists (CH) onsite.

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Broadening the field

KATHERINE PRICE REPORTS ON IPAF'S WOMEN IN POWERED ACCESS INITIATIVE

"We cannot afford to exclude anybody from the conversation surrounding safety in our industry," said Dinolift managing director Karin Nars after being appointed the first female IPAF president, setting out a clear priority to bring more women into powered access as part of a wider drive to improve the sector's diversity.

The UK government's 2019 Construction Sector Deal highlighted that, to meet its future recruitment needs, the sector will need a more diverse workforce. Despite its size, it is one of the least diverse: 86% male, and 94% white. Already suffering a severe skills shortage, the powered access and wider industry desperately need to attract a wider pool of candidates as well as do everything to retain those already in it.

The Women in Powered Access initiative was launched in May 2022 both to celebrate the contributions of women in the sector and to highlight the career pathways available.

It has identified four main goals:

- Celebrate and raise awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) initiatives, as well as diverse individuals across the industry.
- Raise awareness of women in powered access and their roles.
- Provide EDI support including materials, guidance and signposting.
- Promote the wider industry to attract more women and diverse candidates.

Nearly one year in and the focus has been on raising visibility of women by publishing their career stories on the IPAF website and sharing them via social media (see panel, right).

"It seems like a small thing, but it's an important tool in the toolbox to make women visible and feel that they can also belong," explains Nars.

"We know that there are of course incredibly passionate and professional women in the powered access industry, and we want to make them visible so

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We make better decisions in diverse teams, we make fewer mistakes, because we are able to see things from different angles

Karin Nars,
IPAF

Above: Women in Powered Access is highlighting the career pathways available to women

they can act as role models for women of all ages to join our industry and see that there are lots of opportunities.

We also want to show different paths to start a career in access and how that can develop into something meaningful."

For the year ahead, the focus is on promoting the industry to young people through the UK's STEM Ambassadors programme, presenting to at least six schools and colleges, as well as the new IAPA EDI Award, and developing EDI support materials for the industry.

A mentorship scheme is potentially in the pipeline and a LinkedIn group is already established. A women-only breakfast event is planned during the APEX 2023 event in Maastricht, Netherlands, in June. To ensure that words lead to actions, IPAF is targeting 40% female speakers at its five main events this year, including a keynote, and aiming for 30% of attendees to be women.



Nars acknowledges that quotas can be a divisive move: “But as long as we have such a huge gap between men and women in this industry, we need quotas, because it might be the only way for a person to get in,” she argues.

For her, it’s not a box-ticking exercise but about promoting inclusive working cultures and better leadership.

“Everyone should feel like they belong, that they are listened to, that they are making a contribution,” she says. “That’s also how you make a woman feel comfortable in an industry where she might not, at first sight, feel that she belongs.”

Companies need to be thinking about inclusivity across the entire recruitment process, from the language and pictures used in media to the interview process, then retaining those women: “It doesn’t help if you have policies around diversity, equality and inclusion if you’re not then showing that you are actually living those policies in your actions.”

Nars ultimately hopes to make changes that ignite a long-term shift towards a more inclusive future.

“I want to make sustainable change and show that diversity and inclusion should be on everyone’s agenda, because it makes our companies perform better. We make better decisions in diverse teams, we make fewer mistakes, because we are able to see things from different angles,” she adds.

“It’s not about excluding someone or promoting one group instead of another, it is about including everyone, improving work cultures and making a positive impact on safety in our industry.”

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It doesn’t help if you have policies around diversity, equality and inclusion if you’re not then showing that you are actually living those policies in your actions

Karin Nars,
IPAF

If you are a woman in the sector or know someone who has an inspiring career story to share, we want to hear from you. You don’t have to be at an IPAF member company or work directly in powered access. Email marketing@ipaf.org with the subject line ‘Women in Powered Access’.

↘ Women at height: four career stories



↘ **Charlotte Brogren,**
chief technology
officer, Alimak Group,
Sweden

How did you come into the industry?

I have worked in R&D and innovation management since I graduated with a PhD in the 1990s. After 15 years in the automation and robotics industry, I was thrilled to take the opportunity of becoming the CTO of Alimak Group to be part of driving change, innovation and digital technologies for our sector.

What attracted you to it?

It’s all about people. Working with experienced colleagues, customers and suppliers with enormous know-how, with new talents bringing in new perspectives and technologies. Together we can develop new solutions, improving productivity and working conditions while minimising the effect on the environment.

What advice would you give to women in or thinking of entering the industry?

First, you must believe in and have a passion for what you do. Second, make sure you have a manager who believes in you and gives you opportunities to grow. Then the sky is the limit!



↘ **Ele Ioannou,**
operations manager,
Mr Plant Hire, UK

What is your role in powered access?

My role is to ensure we are working to and maintaining the IPAF Rental+ certification. The department has 23 members of staff; my role is to support the manager and guide him through the regulations and legislation.

What do you find inspiring about your role?

Making a positive change in the industry. Not only working in London servicing some incredible sites, including hospitals during the pandemic, but also becoming chair of the IPAF Rental+ committee in 2022. Standardising safety and excellence in our industry is the goal, UK and worldwide. And helping my colleagues develop in their own careers. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing someone grow.

What one piece of advice would you give to other women in/thinking of entering the industry?

Never let your gender get in the way of your ambitions. When you believe in yourself, others will believe in you.



↘ **Linda Betts,**
major account
manager, Access
Platform Sales, UK

What is your role in powered access?

My role in capital machines sales (AWP) is to manage and grow the rental companies within our sector. This can include heavy plant and tool divisions.

What do you find inspiring about your role?

Every day is different, with so many interesting aspects. I believe the AWP world attracts loyalty, shown time and again from the people who have dedicated their life’s work to the industry, which inspires me to push and be better.

What advice would you give to women in or thinking of entering the industry?

Just be yourself. Keep striving towards your goal and don’t give up. Unfortunately, you have to push that much harder in a male-dominated industry.



↘ **Catherine McCreedy,**
apprentice
engineer, Speedy
Powered Access, UK

How did you come into this industry and what attracted you to it?

It sounded like a challenge – and I like a challenge!

What do you find inspiring in your role?

There is so much opportunity out there and I feel that I can amount to anything – the opportunities really are endless.

Where do you see yourself in five years? What do you want to achieve?

My goal is to be a competent, qualified engineer, working in a job I enjoy.

What advice would you give to women in or thinking of entering the industry?

You can do anything if you stay focused and work hard. Mainly I would say try and enjoy it!

Building a team

THE BEST ORGANISATIONS ARE USUALLY GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THEIR PARTS, SAYS TRAINING CONSULTANT **JACQUI BISHOP**

A great team achieves results. Each team member brings knowledge and skills to the table, they do what they're meant to do, internal politics are non-existent and everyone supports each other. Unfortunately, the reality is that many of us have worked in a dysfunctional team where there is friction, mistrust and unhealthy rivalry. This drives down motivation to get the job done.

Yet our colleagues are the people we spend so much of our time with. Some of us spend more time with co-workers than with our families. So working in a team has a direct impact on general life satisfaction and needs to be a positive experience. Individuals should enjoy going to work, interacting with team members and catching up on life outside of work. An understanding of each other enhances trust and respect across the team.

A successful team is one where a diverse group of individuals is brought together to achieve a common purpose that none could hope to achieve in isolation. This can be a challenge. Managers have a tendency to recruit in their own likeness, but it's the different personalities, skills and capabilities of the individuals that drive performance.

Team members need to understand the purpose of their team. What are they there to achieve? How will they recognise success? And, once they understand the team's purpose, each

If individuals realise that their own success is dependent on the success of others, they are more likely to support each other

Jacqui Bishop,
Bishop Business
Directions

individual needs to understand their unique role in contributing to it.

A team may be working together to construct a building, or support a fleet of machinery. In a powered access hire company, for example, the starting point might be to instruct a team member to repair a scissor lift, or deliver it to a customer, or run a hire desk – but their role in that team is an essential cog in a larger machine.

Every role underpins the expertise and contribution of every other team member. Each is part of a wider whole and the success of the team relies on the success of each individual.

By understanding their team role, individual team members can feel part of the overarching achievement. It also allows each individual to recognise how vital every member is – and this enhances a team culture of mutual respect and appreciation. If individuals realise that their own success is dependent on the success of others, they are more likely to support each

other rather than act to undermine or ignore the efforts of colleagues.

A strong leader is vital in all this, role-modelling team behaviour. The manager's role is to make sure the job gets done by guiding team members, providing support, building trust between team members and – often underestimated – celebrating success. It is this coordinating role that builds understanding of the team purpose, that supports individual development, that praises performance.

One more aspect is reward and this is an element that becomes questionable. Companies tend to reward individuals. The harder an individual works, the more they are paid. And this should be the case. But to better motivate a team to perform, perhaps the more rational approach is to reward the team's, rather than the individual's, success.

Jacqui Bishop is principal of management training and development consultancy Bishop Business Directions



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A survivor's story: The fall and rise of Jason Anker

IT IS 30 YEARS SINCE JASON ANKER SUFFERED A LIFE-CHANGING FALL FROM HEIGHT ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE. HE STILL LIVES WITH THE SCARS BUT HAS MADE A NEW LIFE FOR HIMSELF AS A SPOKESPERSON BOTH FOR SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH AND A PATRON OF THE NO FALLS FOUNDATION. BY NEIL GERRARD

Jason Anker has been paralysed from the waist down since falling off a ladder on a construction site in 1993. He was just 24 years old.

For most of the intervening years he has struggled not just with physical disability but with mental turbulence. However, his new life as a motivational speaker and safety trainer has given him a purpose that for so long he felt was missing.

He remembers the fall well. It was 3 January 1993. "I was married with a couple of young children. I was working as a roofing labourer in construction for my father-in-law's small roofing company. I was very inexperienced.

"It was the first day back after the Christmas holidays. I arrived on site with low morale. The job I was working on was relatively safe, but in the afternoon, a rush job came in. It was unplanned work – we were asked if we could try to fix a leaking roof on another building," he recalls.

"It was a two-hour job that we tried to get done in one hour and shortcuts

were taken. Unfortunately, after finishing the job, I went down the ladder, which was unsupported. The ladder slipped and I fell 10ft [3m].

"Initially I thought I was OK. I had a bang on the back of my head and it was only when I tried to sit up that I realised that I couldn't feel my legs. I was taken to hospital and went for an X-ray. The [initial] prognosis was that in a few hours, days or weeks, I would get all of my sensations back. But the doctors decided at the last minute to send me for a CT scan. And then I received the devastating news. They had found a small fracture, the damage was significant and I would never walk again."

Steel rods were inserted into his back for support and he spent four months in a spinal rehabilitation centre to learn how to live in a wheelchair. But the physical injuries were only part of the story.

"I came home from hospital on 25 April 1993 and my wife left the next day, taking my two children. We were having problems before that...

We were young but it had a massive

impact on my already poor emotional state. In six months, I had lost my legs and my marriage."

He sought solace in drink and drugs; an accidental drug overdose in 1995 nearly finished him.

"My daughter came back to me full time to try to give me some focus. And I battled through life. I was looking after my daughter and seeing my son as much as I could. But I was still drinking quite heavily and still secretly battling a number of demons. I found a way of coping and I sort of lived in that existence for a lot of years."

When the £408,000 accident compensation finally came through, 14 years after the accident, it was a mixed blessing. "Given my emotional state at the time, having all that money actually made it worse for a little while. I was just buying things."

If the ladder fall triggered Jason's decline, the turnaround began in 2008 with a chance encounter with a safety consultant called Dan Terry.

"He heard my story and suggested that I start sharing it to industry. Dan set me on a path not just to relive the accident story, but to talk more about the impact that poor safety decision has had on my life and my family's life."

By 2013 he was giving more than 320 health and safety presentations a year. By 2014 he was Jason Anker MBE. He says that when he gives presentations to construction companies, audiences

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I realised the job I was being asked to do was unsafe. I stopped, I thought about it and I still did it

Jason Anker,
No Falls
Foundation



The No Falls Foundation is a charity dedicated to preventing falls from height and helping people affected by the consequences of a fall. IPAF is a member and IPAF CEO Peter Douglas is a trustee.
nofallsfoundation.org



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A huge part of my presentation today focuses on mental health. Even though I have been speaking for 12 or 13 years, it is only really in the last four years that I have started to turn my life around

Jason Anker, No Falls Foundation

tend to engage more when he moves on from the part about safety and the importance of using the right kit, and starts discussing the mental side – why do we make bad decisions?

“On the day of the accident, I was in a bad place. I realised the job I was being asked to do was unsafe. I stopped, I thought about it and I still did it. That is the bit that has been troubling me for a long time.”

He adds: “A huge part of my presentation today focuses on mental health. Even though I have been speaking for 12 or 13 years, it is only really in the last four years that I have started to turn my life around. I practise wellbeing every day and keep my mind in better shape.”

Good mental health is key to avoiding accidents, he says. “It is no good speaking up about wellbeing after an accident. If you are feeling bad in the morning, go and have that conversation with your supervisor.

“We have all this fantastic safety equipment available now. But it is when people are under pressure and not feeling themselves that they choose not to use the equipment or use it incorrectly.

“Management also needs to understand if people are making mistakes or not using equipment correctly then ask the question why. What more can we do? Is there something wrong? Be curious and take the time to find out if there is a problem.”

New safety guidance aims to reduce entrapments and crushing incidents



ALAN BENNETT

Brian Parker: entrapment is one of the top five causes of serious injuries and deaths when using MEWPs

Revised safety guidance has been published explaining how to reduce the risks of trapping and crushing incidents when using MEWPs. Published by the Construction Industry Plant Safety Group (CIPSG), the 22-page *Good Practice Guidance for Reducing Trapping/ Crushing Injuries to People in MEWPs* was developed in partnership with IPAF.

The guidance document is now available to view and download free of charge from either the IPAF or Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) websites. It has been compiled by the CIPSG for MEWPs which is chaired by the CPA and administered and supported by IPAF.

Between 2016 and 2020, incidents entered into the IPAF Accident Reporting Portal (www.ipafaccidentreporting.org) from 15 countries identified that at least 73 people died in entrapment incidents worldwide.

Entrapment injuries to persons in the MEWP platform are usually serious and often fatal. The guidance has been produced by the CIPSG for MEWPs to raise awareness of the risks and covers the measures that can be used to reduce

“We feel this new guidance document provides an important point of reference to aid in minimising entrapment risks

Brian Parker, IPAF

them. It contains guidance on planning, risk assessment, MEWP selection, operator training, familiarisation and rescue. Emphasis is placed on the practical measures that MEWP users can take to avoid entrapment.

The guidance was first published in 2010 and has undergone significant revision in this latest version. The document has been restructured to improve readability and understanding of the topic and new illustrations have been added.

The content reflects and builds upon findings from a Health and Safety Executive Research Report (HSE RR1180:2022), which examined effectiveness of secondary guarding in a range of entrapment scenarios.

Brian Parker, IPAF's head of safety and technical, commented: “This updated guidance has taken a while to develop, but it was much needed, as data gathered via IPAF's Reporting Portal shows that entrapment is consistently one of the top five causes of serious injuries and deaths when using MEWPs.

“The powered access industry has changed significantly over the past five to 10 years, with technological advancements driving secondary guarding devices, and machine capabilities and complexities. Meanwhile, the breadth of industry end applications has developed considerably over that period.

“We feel this new guidance document adequately encompasses all of these changes and provides an important point of reference to aid in minimising entrapment risks for all those planning, executing and supervising work at height using MEWPs.”



Good Practice Guidance for Reducing Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in MEWPs is available to download from IPAF's website at www.ipaf.org/resources



First member in Ireland achieves IPAF Rental+ certification

Blulift receives its IPAF Rental+ certificate

The first hire company in Ireland to be audited to the IPAF Rental+ scheme has been presented with its certification by Damien O'Connor, IPAF's representative for Ireland.

IPAF Rental+ is a certification that ensures members meet and maintain the highest standards of training, equipment inventory and customer satisfaction. It is audited annually and is mandated as a condition of membership by the UK Country Council.

While not yet mandated by the IPAF Irish Council, Blulift is the first Irish company certified, though there are UK/Northern Ireland-based firms that operate or have locations south of the border. Blulift is Briggs Equipment's most recent acquisition in Ireland.

Gary Clements, Briggs' managing director – Ireland Group, said: "IPAF Rental+ is a significant achievement, as it highlights the importance we place on safety, employee development, training pathways and excellence in customer service. It also delivers assurance that all the requirements for running a modern, safe and efficient access hire company have been met and independently verified.

"On behalf of the Blulift team, I would like to thank Damien, Martin Wraith and all the IPAF team for helping us attain this coveted standard. It is undoubtedly a benchmark for the hire industry and a real milestone for us as an Irish powered access rental business."

Damien O'Connor, IPAF's Irish country manager, said: "It is an excellent start to my time at IPAF to be able to meet the guys at Blulift and to hand over a certificate making the company Ireland's first IPAF Rental+ member."

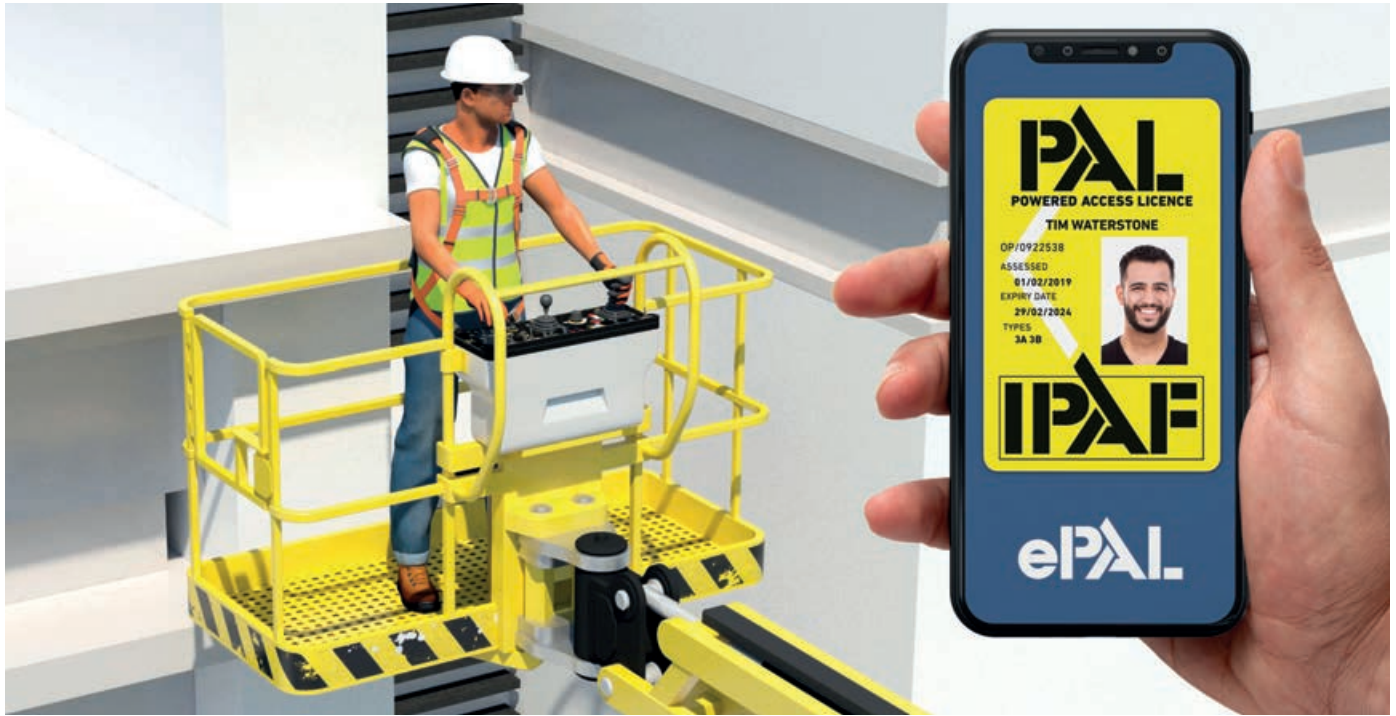
Peter Douglas, CEO and MD of IPAF, commented: "IPAF Rental+ is a badge of professionalism across the industry; I am pleased to say that as of 2022, all of IPAF's UK hire company members have achieved the IPAF Rental+ standard, as mandated by the UK Country Council, and that now as an organisation we are turning our attention to internationalising the scheme; we are making positive strides to roll out the scheme and increase industry uptake and recognition in other markets this year and beyond, including in the Middle East."

// **It is undoubtedly a benchmark for the hire industry and a real milestone for us as an Irish powered access rental business**

Gary Clements, Briggs Equipment



IPAF Rental+ is the powered access industry's guarantee of a high-quality hire/rental company. It is proof that a hire/rental company has been independently audited and meets rigorous health and safety, quality, and environmental standards, and is a mechanism for continual business improvement. Visit www.ipaf.org/rental for more information, to find an IPAF Rental+ certified company or for details of how to become IPAF Rental+ certified.



IPAF ePAL app surpasses 300,000 downloads

IPAF's ePAL mobile app for operators of MEWPs and MCWPs has surpassed a quarter of a million first-time downloads to stand at nearly 325,000 by the end of March 2023.

IPAF's ePAL app was launched in June 2021, with the global roll-out completed during 2022. The app allows digital certification of training, including IPAF's PAL Card. It is free to use and is available in seven languages.

The app allows IPAF to communicate safety messages to operators around the globe. It also offers benefits to users in terms of storing and sharing training certification and logging machine time, and reporting incidents or near-misses to IPAF's portal. The app is available in all territories where IPAF certifies training, and to date has active users in more than 160 countries worldwide.

Peter Douglas, IPAF's CEO and managing director, commented: "We developed ePAL in partnership with our member firm Trackunit in part to offer operators and supervisors a digital tool to share training certification and log equipment time, and also as part of our ongoing digitalisation

project. We have significantly reduced the carbon footprint involved in sending thousands of plastic PAL Cards and paper certificates around the globe."

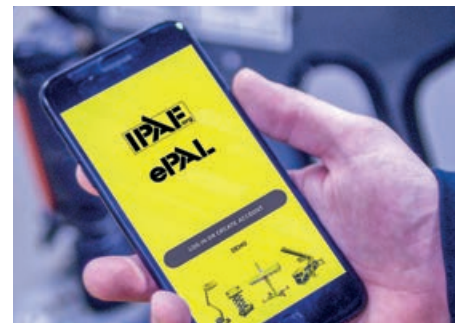
He added: "Anyone can download the ePAL app free of charge and can store their training certification digitally. It's an easy way to verify validity, check expiry dates, and the cost of renewing a PAL Card digitally is cheaper, provided a physical card isn't required for any reason. It means users' training can be updated quickly whenever licences are added or renewed and makes it impossible to ever 'lose' a PAL Card, meaning users shouldn't ever have to pay to get it replaced, as used to happen when a physical card was lost.

"IPAF is constantly evaluating the app and developing useful new features, with more being added all the time. We also urge those who haven't yet downloaded ePAL to do so without delay, to begin to enjoy the benefits the app brings and to join the growing digital revolution in IPAF training certification and safety."

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It means users' training can be updated quickly whenever licences are added or renewed and makes it impossible to ever 'lose' a PAL Card

Peter Douglas,
IPAF CEO and managing director

Details of the IPAF ePAL mobile app can be found at www.ipaf.org/ePAL; the app is available to download free of charge for both Apple iOS and Android devices.



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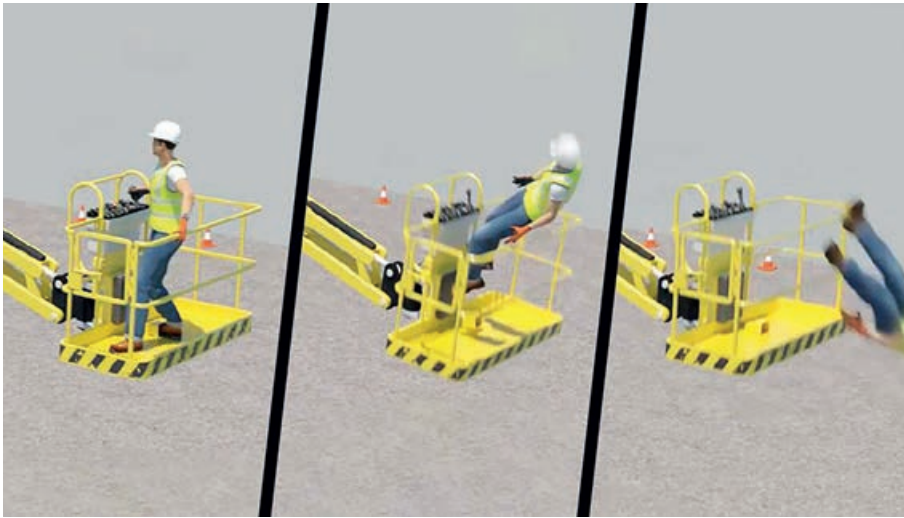


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www.ciobpeople.com

IPAF issues new catapult effect safety awareness leaflet



IPAF's new leaflet warns about the dangers of the catapult effect for MEWP platform occupants

A safety awareness leaflet has been issued to warn users MEWPs about the catapult effect, which can cause occupants to be ejected from the platform, leading to serious injury and death, especially if occupants in boom-type machines are not wearing the correct personal fall protection equipment (PFPE).

The leaflet, *MEWP Catapult Effect*, was created by IPAF's Safety & Technical team as part of the federation's ongoing Don't Fall For It! global safety campaign, and is free to download via IPAF's website at www.ipaf.org/resources now.

Brian Parker, IPAF's head of safety and technical, commented: "The previous IPAF *Catapult* leaflet was always very popular with members, particularly IPAF Training Centres, as it points out a specific effect that new and inexperienced operators of MEWPs in particular may be unaware of. We review all our guidance documents regularly and feel that this update offers really useful, practical steps to manage risk.

"We have condensed the key information needed to describe the catapult effect, what the main underlying causes are, and how to mitigate these. We're confident

that the new leaflet will be very helpful in raising awareness around this potentially dangerous situation that can arise when using MEWPs, and we are happy to offer this free of charge to end users as part of our ongoing Don't Fall For It! safety campaign."

He added: "Experienced users of MEWPs will doubtless have encountered at least one catapult situation, and so will be aware of the risks and the potential energy that is generated; without a harness with correct fall-restraint lanyard clipped to the anchor point, it's virtually impossible to counter the catapult effect, even when manoeuvring the MEWP in the lowered or stowed position.

"This updated leaflet is a timely reminder for operators of all levels of experience that the catapult effect can easily lead to serious incidents with catastrophic outcomes; we urge people to view and download this latest IPAF leaflet, to read and understand the simple safety messages and build them into your safe work planning."

To view and download your free copy of the updated IPAF *MEWP Catapult Effect* leaflet, please visit www.ipaf.org/resources

Verify IPAF PAL Cards to beat fraudsters and keep sites safe



End users are kindly reminded to check the validity of all IPAF Powered Access Licence (PAL) Cards for operators of MEWPs, MCWPs and construction hoists, in order to beat would-be

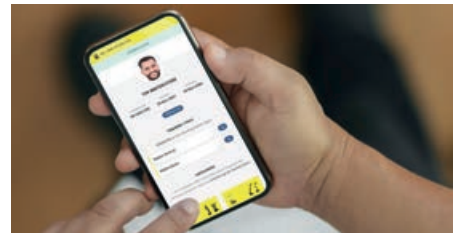
fraudsters and help keep work sites safe.

Giles Councill, IPAF's director of operations, (*pictured above*) said: "IPAF is aware of increasingly sophisticated techniques deployed by those trying to circumvent the various robust measures we have in place to verify the validity of the IPAF PAL Card.


"We always work hard to respond quickly to crack down on any instance of suspected fraud that is brought to our attention. It is easy to check an IPAF PAL Card by visiting www.ipaf.org/checkpal – you must never use any other website, and you should ensure the web page you click on does not redirect elsewhere and remains on the www.ipaf.org domain.

"Alternatively, if the PAL Card is digital and stored in the user's ePAL app, it is easy for site supervisors, managers or any other authorised person to check the digital PAL Card's validity by scanning the QR code generated in the app.

"If in doubt, please contact IPAF's head office on +44 (0)15395 66700 and ask to speak to one of the team, who can quickly check that a PAL Card is the genuine article and respond to any suspicion you may have of attempted fraud."



To quickly and easily verify an IPAF PAL Card visit www.ipaf.org/checkpal or use the IPAF ePAL app. If you have any queries at all in relation to the validity of IPAF's training certification or suspect fraudulent activity of any kind, please call +44 (0)15395 66700.



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IPAF has issued guidance on how to safely use MEWPs to manage trees and vegetation

Access a comprehensive range of free safety resources from IPAF

In the past 18 months IPAF has issued tailored safety guidance, including detailed documents about the *Safe Use of MEWPs in Public Areas*, *Safe Use of MEWPs to Manage Trees and Vegetation* (www.ipaf.org/trees), the *MEWP Catapult Effect* and the *Safe Use of MEWPs in the Vicinity of Power Lines* guidance document.

IPAF has published a host of Toolbox Talks and Andy Access safety posters in the past 18 months, including briefings on: safe MCWP and construction hoist loading; MCWP and construction hoist rescue planning; assessing MEWP tyre condition; and how to prevent falls – part of IPAF's Don't Fall for It! global safety campaign.

IPAF's popular Toolbox Talks are a series of short safety briefings designed to share specific safety messages on work sites and in breakrooms. They are complemented by Andy Access safety posters to remind operators and supervisors of the principles of safe operation.

The full list of talks issued is as follows: *Safe On-site Servicing of MEWPs*,

MCWP Loading, MCWP and Construction Hoist Rescue Plan, Construction Hoist Loading, MEWP Tyre Condition, Operating MEWPs alongside Roads, Safety in Working Around RF Antennas, Avoiding Contact with Power Lines and Falls From Height: Don't Fall For It!

See www.ipaf.org/ToolboxTalks and www.ipaf.org/AndyAccess or visit www.ipaf.org/resources for the full range of resources available.



Save the Work at Height Regulations



Peter Douglas: repealing regulations will cost lives

IPAF members have been urged to email their local MP to ask them to intervene to help save the UK Work at Height safety regulations, which are set to be repealed as part of a 'bonfire of EU laws' by the end of this year.

IPAF has joined with fellow Access Industry Forum members in support of the Save the Work at Height Regulations campaign.

Peter Douglas, CEO and managing director of IPAF, has now written to all the MPs with constituencies close to IPAF's Cumbria headquarters, as well as to business secretary Kemi Badenoch MP and Alison Thewliss MP, chair of the all-party parliamentary group on working at height.

The letter calls on MPs to press the government to enshrine the Work at Height Regulations in UK law before being repealed under the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Bill.

IPAF is asking UK members to do likewise, and has made available a template letter (tinyurl.com/3nnbs29s).

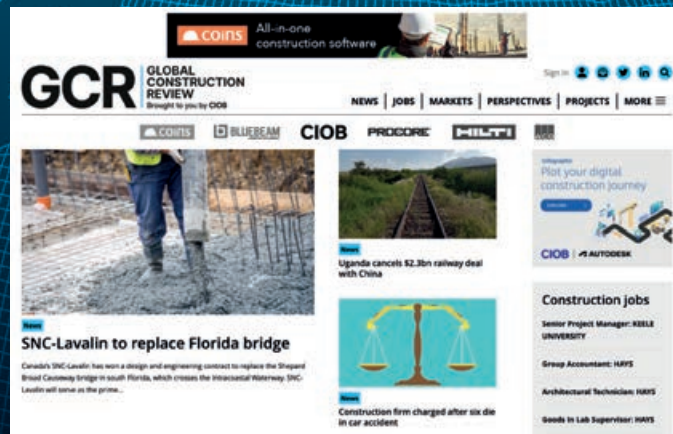
"We are asking our member companies in the UK to further raise awareness and put collected pressure on the government to act in the light of clear and compelling evidence that repealing the Work at Height Regulations (2005) will cost lives," Douglas said.

Health and Safety Executive statistics show that fatal falls in the workplace have halved since the Work at Height Regulations came into law in 2005.

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↘ IPAF training is provided by a network of approved training centres that operate independently. To find the nearest IPAF Training Centre, visit www.ipaf.org/training | IPAF Rental+ is the MEWP hire industry quality standard. It's proof of a quality hire company that has been independently audited to rigorous standards. To find your nearest IPAF Rental+ depot, see www.ipaf.org/rental A full list of members can be found on the IPAF website, see www.ipaf.org/members-directory



IPAF RENTAL MEMBERS

1 Up Access

www.1upaccess.co.uk

2 Cousins Powered Access

www.2cousins.co.uk

Access Hire Nationwide

www.accesshirenationwide.com

Access Platforms Aberdeen

www.accessaberdeen.com

Access Service & Repair

www.access-platforms.com

Active Access

www.activeaccess.co.uk

Adastra Access

www.adastra-access.co.uk

Advanced Access Platforms

www.advancedaccessplatforms.co.uk

AER Access

www.aeraccess.co.uk

AFI-Uplift

www.afi-rentals.co.uk

Allied Mastclimbers & Hoists

www.alliedaccess.co.uk

Altegra Integrated Solutions

www.altegra.co.uk

Anglia Access Platforms

www.angliaaccess.co.uk

Apollo Cradles

www.apollocradles.co.uk

Ardent Hire Solutions

www.ardenthire.com

Ashbrook (Warrington)

www.ashbrook.ltd

Astley Hire

www.astleyhiretraining.co.uk

Baloo Hire Centre

www.baloohire.com

Banner Plant

www.bannerplant.co.uk

Blade Access

www.bladeaccess.co.uk

Blulift

www.blulift.ie

Braddan Plant Hire

www.braddanplanthire.com

Briggs Equipment UK

trainingnorth.briggsequipment.ie

Cannon Access

www.cannonaccess.co.uk

Charles Wilson Engineers

www.cwplant.co.uk

Claude Fenton (Plant Hire)

www.fentonplant.co.uk

Clear View Access

clearviewaccess.net

Clements Plant & Tool Hire

www.clementsplant.co.uk

Commhoist

www.commhoist.co.uk

Cox Hire

www.coxhire.co.uk

CRL Group

www.crlgroup.co.uk

Eagle Platforms

www.eagleplatforms.com

Elavation

www.elavation.net

Elev8 Access Platforms

www.elev8hire.com

Empire Hire Group

www.empirehiregroup.co.uk

Ermin Plant

www.ermind.com

GB Access Platforms

www.gbaccessplatforms.co.uk

Global Platforms Northern

www.globalplatforms.co.uk

GT Access

www.gtaccess.co.uk

GTM Heavy Rentals

www.gtmheavyrentals.com

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Gwynedd Forklifts

www.gwyneddforklifts.com

Height for Hire

www.heightforhire.com/

Hird

www.hird.co.uk

Hire Access Platforms

www.hireaccessplatforms.co.uk

Hire and Supplies

www.hireandsupplies.com

Hire Safe Solutions

www.hiresafesolutions.com

Hire Station

www.brandontoolhire.co.uk

Hoist Hire Services

www.hoisthire.co.uk

Horizon Platforms

www.horizonplatforms.co.uk

HSS Hire Service Group

www.hss.com/hire

Industrial Access Systems

www.indaccess.co.uk

Jackson Mechanical Services (JMS)

www.jms-access.co.uk

JPS Platforms

www.jpstoolandaccess.co.uk

Just4Access

www.just4access.com

Kardon Contracts

www.kardoncontracts.com

KDM Hire

www.kdmhire.com

LAS Plant

www.lasplant.co.uk

Liftright Access

www.liftrightaccess.com

London Hoist

www.londonhoist.co.uk

LTC Powered Access

www.ltcaccess.co.uk

M B Plant

www.mbplant.co.uk

M Womack

www.womackaccess.co.uk

Mainline (1982)

www.mainline-hire.co.uk

Mark One Hire

www.mark1training.co.uk

Martin Plant Hire

www.martinplanthire.co.uk/

Mastclimbers

www.sgb.co.uk

MB Plant

www.mbplant.co.uk

Midland Access Platforms

www.midlandaccessplatforms.co.uk

Mr Plant Hire

www.mrplanthire.co.uk/training

Nationwide Platforms

www.nationwideplatforms.co.uk

NSS Hire

www.nssgroup.com

One Stop Hire

www.onestophire.com

Onestop Access (Scotland)

www.onestopaccessequipment.co.uk

Ord Industrial and Commercial Supplies

www.ordgroup.com

Orion Access Services

www.orionaccess.co.uk

Palmer Access

www.palmeraccess.co.uk

PC Fork Lift Truck Services

www.pcforktruckservices.co.uk

PG Platforms

www.pgplatforms.co.uk

PHD Hoists & Masts

www.phdhm.com

Plantool

www.hirecentres.com

Premier Platforms

www.premier-platforms.co.uk

Quick Reach Powered Access

www.quick-reach.co.uk

Select Plant Hire Company

www.selectplanthire.com

Skipton Hire Centre (SHC)

www.shc.co.uk

Smart Platform Rental

www.smartplatforms.co.uk

Smiths Equipment Hire

smithshire.com/specialist-powered-access

Speedy Asset Services

www.speedyservices.com

Speedy Hire

www.speedyservices.com

Star Platforms

www.starplatforms.co.uk

Summit Platforms

www.summitplatforms.co.uk

Sunbelt Rentals

www.sunbeltrentals.com

SWAT Access

www.swataccess.com

TAG Forklift Truck Services

www.tagforklifttrucks.com

Travis Perkins

www.travisperkins.co.uk/tool-hire

Turner Tool Hire

www.turneraccesshire.com

Tyne & Wear Access NE

www.tyneandwearaccess.co.uk

UK Tool Hire Group

www.ukindustriestesting.co.uk

Upward Powered Access

www.upwardpoweredaccess.com

Warren Access

www.warrenaccess.co.uk

Access & Forklift Services

www.aafs.ie

Access All Areas Platforms

www.accessallareasplatforms.com

Access Hire Nationwide

www.accesshirenationwide.com

Access Platforms Aberdeen

www.accessaberdeen.com

Access Services (Scotland)

www.scotaccess.co.uk

Active Access

www.activeaccess.co.uk

Adapt (UK) Training Services

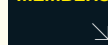
www.adapt-training.co.uk

Adastra Access

www.adastra-access.co.uk

* MEWP rental members listed are certified to the IPAF Rental+ scheme (not yet available to MCWP & hoist rental members).

IPAF RENTAL MEMBERS



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST IPAF RENTAL DEPOT, SEE www.ipaf.org/rental



Advanced Access Platforms
www.advancedaccessplatforms.co.uk

Advanced National Training Services (ANTS)
www.ants.ie

AFI-Uplif
www.afi-rentals.co.uk

Alan Franzoni TA Global Training Solutions
www.globaltraining-solutions.ie

Alimak Group UK
www.alimak.co.uk

Alliance Learning Training
www.alliancelearning.com

Alpha Safety Training
www.alphasafety.co.uk

Amber Safety
ambersafety.ie

Anderlift Safety Services
www.anderlift.ie

Anglesey Safety Training
www.angleseysafety-training.co.uk

Apollo Cradles
www.apollocradles.co.uk

ARC Training (UK)
www.arc-training.com

Astley Hire
www.astleyhiretraining.co.uk

Aurelia
www.aureliatraining.co.uk

Autec Training
www.autec.co.uk

Award Training Services
www.awardtraining.co.uk

Ayrton Group
www.ayrton.ie

Baloo Hire Centre
www.baloohire.com

Banner Plant
www.bannerplant.co.uk

Barry Training Services
www.barrytrainingservices.co.uk

Belfast Skills Development
www.bsdtraining.com

BFT Mastclimbing
www.bftmastclimbing.com

BJB Lift Trucks
www.bjblifttrucks.co.uk

Blulif
www.blulif.ie

Boss Training
www.bosstraining.co.uk

Braddan Plant Hire
www.braddanplantire.com

Briggs Equipment UK
trainingnorth.
briggsequipment.ie

Britannia Safety and Training
www.britanniaits.com

Brogan Group (UK) T/A Brogan Group
www.brogangroup.com

Cannon Access
www.cannonaccess.co.uk

Central Training Services
www.central-training.co.uk

Certora Training
www.certoratraining.co.uk

Certs Assured Training
training.certsassured.com

Charles Wilson Engineers
www.cwplant.co.uk

Claremorris Safety Training Centre
www.cstc.ie

Claude Fenton (Plant Hire)
www.fentonplant.co.uk

Construction And Plant Training Services
cpcs-training-courses.co.uk

Construction Development Centre
www.cdc.org.uk

Contour Training
www.contourtraining.com

Corlurgan Training Centre
www.thinksafety.ie

Davis Access
www.davisaccess.co.uk

DG Training Academy
www.dgtrainingacademy.com

DS International Training
www.ds-training.co.uk

Eagle Platforms
www.eagleplatforms.com

Eastern Counties Access Solutions
www.ecaccesssolutions.com

Elavation
www.elavation.net

Elevation Training & Development
www.elevationtraining.co.uk

Enigma Industrial Services
www.enigmaindustrial-services.com

Ermin Plant (Hire & Services)
www.ermn.co.uk

Essex Construction Training
www.ec-training.co.uk

Expedient Training Services
www.expedient-training.co.uk

Fife Council, Skills Development Centre
www.fifedirect.org.ukhscourses

Frank Thornton Health & Safety
www.fthealthservices.com

Gamble Training Services
www.gambletraining.co.uk

Gardner Denver
www.gdpoweredaccess.com

GB Access Platforms
www.gbaccessplatforms.co.uk

Gen II Training & Technology
www.gen2.ac.uk

Genie UK
www.genielift.co.uk

Global FLT
www.globalflt.com

GT Access
www.gtaccess.co.uk

Harrington Safety
www.harringtonsafety.co.uk

Harris Safety Training Services
www.harrissafetytraining-services.co.uk

Hartlepool Training
www.hartlepooltraining.co.uk

Health & Safety Training
www.hst.uk.com

Height for Hire
www.heightforhire.com

Height for Hire (Safety Training) UK
www.heightforhire.com

Heyrod Construction
www.heyrod.co.uk

Hird
www.hird.co.uk

Hire Safe Solutions
www.hiresafesolutions.com

Hire Station
www.brandontothire.co.uk

Holland Safety
www.hollandsafety.ie

Horizon Platforms
www.horizonplatforms.co.uk

HSS Training
www.hsstraining.com

HSS Training Ireland
www.hss.com

Industrial Access Systems
www.indaccess.co.uk

Industry Training Services
www.industrytraining-services.com

ISM Training
www.ismtraining.ie

J & D Pierce (Contracts)
www.jdpierce.co.uk

J & J Training Services
www.jjtrainingservices.co.uk

Jackson Mechanical Services (JMS)
www.jms-access.co.uk

JJ Training (UK)
www.jjtraininguk.com

JLG Industries (UK)
www.jlg.com

JPS Platforms
www.jpstoolandaccess.co.uk

KDM Hire
www.kdmhire.com

Kentec Training
www.kentectraining.co.uk

Kingfisher Access
www.kingfisheraccess.com

KNT Training
www.knt-training.co.uk

Konecranes Demag UK
www.konecranes.co.uk

Lancaster & Morecambe College
www.lmc.ac.uk

Lancaster Training Services
www.lantrain.co.uk

Lawson's Training Centre
www.lawsonstraining.co.uk

Liebherr Great Britain
www.liebherr.com

Lift Hire Ireland
www.lifhireireland.com

LJS Training Services
www.ljstraining-services.com

London Hoist
www.londonhoist.co.uk

Loxam
www.loxam.ie

LTC Training Services
www.ltctraining-services.co.uk

M B Plant
www.mbplant.co.uk

Macey (MDT)
www.mdtme.co.uk

Mainline (1982)
www.mainline-hire.co.uk

Mark One Hire
www.mark1training.co.uk

Martin Plant Hire
www.martinplantire.com

Mastclimbers
www.sgb.co.uk

ME hire training
www.mehireuk.com

MECSafe
www.mecsafe.co.uk

MHA Training
www.mhatraining.co.uk

Mid Glamorgan Fork Truck Training Services
www.midglam-forktruck-training.co.uk

Midland Access Platforms
www.midlandaccessplatforms.co.uk

Mr Plant Hire
www.mrplantire.co.uk/training

MV & Sons Training Services
www.mv-forklifttraining.co.uk

National Construction College
www.nationalconstruction-college.co.uk

National Safety Training Services
www.nationalsafety-training.co.uk

National Training Solutions
www.nationaltraining-solutions.ie

Nationwide Platforms
www.nationwideplatforms.co.uk

National Construction Training & Safety T/A (NCTS)
www.nctsltd.ie

Niftylift
www.niftylift.com

NIS Training
https://nistraining.co.uk

North East Access Training
www.northeastaccess-training.co.uk

Northern Safety
www.northern-safety-ltd.co.uk

Oakbarn Training
www.poweredaccess-training.co.uk

O'Dwyer Safety Services (OSS)
www.odwyersafety-services.ie

One Stop Hire
www.onestophire.com

Onestop Access (Scotland)
www.onestop-access-equipment.co.uk

Openreach
www.btplc.com

Operator Training Services
www.operator-trainingservices.co.uk

Orion Access Services
www.orionaccess.co.uk

Ormerod Management Services (OMS)
www.oms.uk.com

P B Training Services
www.pbtrainingservices.co.uk

Palfinger UK
www.palfinger.co.uk

PFI Training
www.pfitraining.co.uk

PG Platforms
www.pgplatforms.co.uk

PHD Hoists & Masts
www.phdhm.com

Plantool
www.hirecentres.com

Platinum Training Services
platinumtrainingservices.co.uk/book-a-course

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PRS Hire Services
www.prshealthandsafety.co.uk

Qualitrain Powered Equipment
qualitrainpoweredequipment.org.uk

Quick Reach Powered Access
www.quick-reach.co.uk

Ritchies HGV Training Centre
www.ritchiestraining.co.uk

RS Industrial Services
www.rsis.co.uk

RSC Training
www.rsc-training.co.uk

Safe Training Services (Southern)
www.safetrainingservices.co.uk

Safety Training Solutions
www.sts-scotland.co.uk

Safeymen
www.safeymen.co.uk

Salus Training Services
www.salustraining.com

SAT Services
www.satservices.org

Scannell Safety Services
www.scannellsafety.com

Select Plant Hire Company
www.selectplanthire.com

Severfield UK
www.severfield.com

Shear Training & Consultancy
www.sheartraining.co.uk

Shropshire County Trainers
www.sctcentre.com

Sibbald
www.sibbaldtraining.com

SkillsTec
www.skillstec.co.uk

Skipton Hire Centre (SHC)
www.shc.co.uk

Smiths Equipment Hire
smithshire.com/specialist-powered-access

SMP Training and Recruitment
www.smptrainingandrecruitmentltd.co.uk

Speedy Support Services
www.speedyservices.com

Star Platforms
www.starplatforms.co.uk

STS Training
www.stsaccess.co.uk

Summit Platforms
www.summitplatforms.co.uk

Sunbelt Rentals
www.sunbeltrentals.com

SWAT Access
www.swataccess.com

System People (SP) Training
www.sptraininguk.com

TALA Training
www.talatraining.co.uk

Taylor Training Services (UK)
www.taylor-training.co.uk

TCA Lifting
www.tcalifting.com

The MEWP Training Centre
www.themewptrainingcentre.co.uk

The Safety Maintenance Company
www.thesmcl.co.uk

JLR Training T/A The Training Society
www.thetrainingsociety.co.uk

TrainingPlus.Co.uk
www.trainingplus.com

Trainrite
www.trainriteuk.co.uk

Tyne & Wear Access NE
www.tyneandwearaccess.co.uk

UK Tool Hire Group
www.ukindustriestraining.co.uk

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ABOUT IPAF



↳ The International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) promotes the safe and effective use of powered access equipment. It provides technical advice and information, influences and interprets legislation and standards, and runs safety initiatives and training programmes. It is a not-for-profit organisation owned by its members, which include manufacturers, rental companies, distributors, contractors and users.

IPAF's training programme for platform operators is certified by the international certification organisation Bureau Veritas as conforming to ISO 18878. More than 190,000 operators are trained each year through a worldwide network of almost 800 IPAF-approved training centres.

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Powered Access Licence is the most widely held and recognised proof of training for platform operators. Membership is open to users of platforms, manufacturers, distributors, rental and training companies. Members can access practical information and a growing portfolio of member services.

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