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Height Safety News



January 2014

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the January 2015 Height Safety News.

This month we discuss forged competence cards, dramatic dropped objects and their impact on scaffolding practice, and the publication of a short guide on selecting a work at height advisor.



Counterfeit Competence

A North London gang have recently been handed down custodial sentences for their part in a massive competence card fraud ring. Their crimes related to many types of card, but

are understood to include a significant number of construction industry competence cards.

More can be learnt from the [PP Construction](#) safety website.

This reinforces my suggestion that we should encourage managers to destroy the competence cards of operatives who are found acting outside the accepted good practice for their trade or activity. A MEWP driver operating unsafely is a hazard to others as well as to himself. If we destroy his IPAF card he will at least have to re-train to continue work and might even take the training more seriously.



Dropped Scaffold Tube ?

A dramatic incident in central London is likely to have serious consequences for the scaffolding industry. Two passing pedestrians were hit by a dropped scaffold tube. The story is still unfolding and more information (and a video of the incident) can be found at [PP Construction Safety](#).

Tool tethering has been around for many years, and a small number of Scaffold Contractors have been promoting tethered fittings ... it was only going to be a matter of time and incident.

I took the above picture recently, in Victoria. The company is Williams Scaffolding .. there but for the grace ..?



How to select a Height Safety advisor.

We have produced a short article on what to look for when selecting an advisor for work at height. It is not really "totally" biased but raises a number of issues that are often overlooked when placing confidence. It is available through the [Higher Safety](#) website, and I would welcome your thoughts on it.

Basically the article suggests that work at height is a safety "specialism" and as such a safety generalist may lack depth and detail, and may be out of date.

Give it a look, it is only a few pages.

Higher Safety are exploring ways to improve the practical retention and improved operating performance resulting from training. Current thinking is that training without assessment and feedback is of limited benefit, but audits and return assessment commitments are costly.

We are also researching the benefits of remote follow up, through an "on line" test or set of questions at set intervals after training, or even a phone call test or role

play to assess retention and application of leaning.
For more information on improving the effectiveness of Safety training,
contact [Higher Safety](#).

www.highersafety.org

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