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Height Safety News



2014

Dear << Test First Name >>

Welcome to the September 2014 Height Safety News. The eagle eyed amongst you will have spotted my error last month .. I left out one report. So this month we report on Tower Crane safety, the longevity of training certificates (really) and competence complacency.



Improving Tower Crane Safety ?

We are all spending much time and energy supporting the lonely tower crane driver. We have welfare issues, health monitoring concerns, and rescue methods and equipment. We also have a site whose productivity is controlled by the tower crane. Why is the tower crane driver isolated in the air, remote, at height, and inaccessible ? Most of his lifts are blind at the critical stages and he is "driven" by the banksman. Surely with a couple of cameras, and some basic electronics the crane could be safely operated from a site cabin, or by the banksman himself (subject to further training of course).

The opportunities are significant .. reduced down time, ease of driver change, greater accuracy, and a complete removal of the burdensome welfare, health and rescue issues ?

I'm told that other countries have adopted this idea successfully, and I would love to take this further. Discuss anyone ?



Training Certification

When recently asked why Higher Safety have no expiry date on training certificates, my answer was "how long does competence last ?"

Most competence certification has a five year "life," however this misses one key component of competence ... experience. Someone who uses their training knowledge immediately, and stays working with the subject matter, grows in knowledge, skill and expertise. Their competence develops with time, and they



Audit at any stage.

We are often asked to attend site and "audit" the work at height activity. This might be triggered by an event, or concern, and it often leads to some bespoke re-focus training. Whilst this is of benefit and shows the site reacting to a need, many of the issues could have been headed off in design.

We can of course "audit" the design as well, at a far earlier stage in the project, with a greater opportunity for more effective input. Our design review workshops are project specific and focussed on delivering detailed planning value at as early a stage as

attends a course and passes the test of understanding but never uses their knowledge, will quickly forget most of what they learnt. Their competence diminishes with time and they become increasingly incompetent.

[How long should a certificate last ?](#) .. it all depends, and I discuss this further on the website.

What do you think ?

possible.

Some consistent needs are coming out of this work particularly in concrete frame high rise, and they are fast becoming generally accepted industry practice. The cladding interface and cladding methods understandably attract attention, as does work sequence and service installation.

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