



STACS of NEWS

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COMPANY FINED AFTER FALLING SCAFFOLD CLIPS HITS PEDESTRIAN

A scaffolding company was sentenced today for safety breaches after a scaffold clip fell approximately 20m (60 ft.) and hit a member of the public walking below.

The court heard that the injured person was walking along Upper Street in Islington, London when he was hit on the head by the clip. He sustained numerous cuts to his head and face, a broken nose and a severely bruised skull. The HSE prosecuted the firm over the incident.

The scaffold company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company was fined £160,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,059.08 and a victim surcharge of £170.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Sarah Robinson commented: "This incident could so easily have been avoided by simply carrying out correct control measures and safe working practices.

"On this occasion the company did not follow their own risk assessments or method statements."

COMPANY FINED AFTER WORKER'S HAND PARTIALLY SEVERED

A manufacturing company based in Gloucester has been fined after an incident at its site resulted in a worker having his fingers and part of his palm severed.

The court heard how the employee of the framing company was in the process of using a chop saw when the blade fell onto his right hand, severing the fingers above the knuckles.

An investigation by the HSE into the incident found that the company failed to provide sufficient information and instruction, and there were no risk assessments or safe systems of work in place.

The framing company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The company has been fined £10,000.00 and ordered to pay costs of £2057.72.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Tania Nickson said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to inform, instruct and train their workers in the safe system of working."

"If a suitable safe system of work had been in place prior to the incident, the serious injuries sustained by the employee could have been prevented."

£500,000 AFTER WORKER STRUCK BY TIPPER TRUCK

A principal contractor has been fined after a worker was struck by a tipper truck.

The authorities heard how a ground worker was working on the development site of over 370 houses at Burntwood Business Park.

At the time of incident there were a number of tipper trucks delivering material to the site and various ground workers were directing the drivers to different areas. The injured worker was walking along a haul road in an attempt to attract the attention of a vehicle in another area of the site when he was struck and run over by a tipper truck.

The worker suffered serious injuries including several broken bones in both legs and feet and severe damage to the blood vessels in his legs. His injuries resulted in him having his right leg amputated to the knee over 12 months after the incident.

An investigation by the HSE found that there were insufficient protected walkways across the site and that there was no control over access to the site. The investigation also found that there was an accepted practice of walking on haul roads and that there was a lack of an up to date traffic management plan.

The Contractor pleaded guilty to breaching Regulation 27(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The company was fined £500,000 and ordered to pay costs of £30,000 with a victim surcharge of £120.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Katherine Blunt said: "Incidents like this should never be allowed to take place. Construction sites should be organised in a way which prevents pedestrians and vehicles coming into contact with each other.

"This incident resulted in a worker sustaining life-changing injuries and should serve as a reminder to principal contractors of the need to properly organise construction sites to keep workers and members of the public safe.



WORKER LOSES THUMB

A manufacturing company has been sentenced after a worker lost his right thumb whilst working on a lathe.

The court heard how the employee was injured when his gloved hand got caught on a moving part of machinery, resulting in the amputation of his right thumb.

An investigation by the HSE found the risks associated with working on lathes were foreseeable, but the company failed to both identify these risks and implement a safe system of work to carry out such tasks.

The company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and has been fined £14,170 and ordered to pay costs of £2,849.50.

Speaking after the hearing HSE inspector Caroline Coleman said, "This injury could have easily been prevented had the risk been identified.

"Employers should make sure they properly assess and apply effective control measures to minimise the risk from dangerous parts of machinery".



SCAFFOLDER KILLED BY DUMPER TRUCK



Redrow Homes Limited and WPI Civil Engineering Limited have been fined after the death of scaffolder Henry Jones in 2013.

Liverpool Crown Court heard how, on 8 August 2013, 67-year-old Henry Jones was walking across the Redrow Homes construction site in Knotty Ash when he was struck by a reversing dumper truck. Mr Jones was crushed under the rear wheels of the vehicle and confirmed deceased at the scene. The incident was witnessed by Mr Jones' son who was also working at the construction site.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Redrow Homes had made no provision to maintain separation of vehicles and pedestrians in the plot where Mr Jones died. It was heard that the traffic management across the entire site was poor and was an underlying cause of the accident.

The investigation also found that sub-contractor WPI Civil Engineering Limited failed to provide a banksman (a person trained to direct vehicle movement), or have any employees on site trained as banksmen, and that the vehicle involved was not fit to be used on site.



Redrow Homes Limited pleaded guilty to Section 3(1) and Section 33(1)(c) of The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £500,000 and ordered to pay costs of £101,000.

WPI Civil Engineering Limited of King Street Trading Estate, Middlewich, Cheshire pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) and Section 33(1)(c) of The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was fined £300,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Jacqueline Western said: "This tragic incident was wholly avoidable. Having safety measures to protect pedestrian workers is a basic and well recognised principle of good construction management.

(From HSE website)

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