

# Safety on Site



DUFFY GROUP LTD

March 2009

## SCAFFOLD COLLAPSE

Recent inspections have the HSE warning construction companies to ensure they provide safe scaffolding, which is regularly inspected, after two companies were fined for a scaffolding collapse in Birmingham City Centre.

On 13th December 2006 scaffolding, measuring between up to 50ft high and spanning 100ft along the side of a building, collapsed across Needles Alley at 6.40pm as it was being used by pedestrians.

SGB Services Ltd, of Leatherhead in Surrey, was fined a total of £4,000 and ordered to pay costs of £6,000 at Birmingham Magistrates' Court, on Friday 13th March 2009. The company had been charged with not ensuring that the working plat-

forms, that they had installed were erected to ensure that components did not become accidentally displaced as to endanger passers-by.

In the same court hearing John Davies Interiors Ltd, of Century House Oldbury, was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,996. The company admitted that it had not ensured that the working platforms were not used in that position, as they had not been inspected within the previous seven days.

HSE Inspector Mike Ford said: "The incident placed pedestrians and workers at risk because the two companies had failed to provide a scaffold that was suitably tied to the building and failed to ensure that the scaffold was inspected regularly after the erection.



"All employers have a responsibility to ensure that safe working practices are in place, because failure to do so could well cost lives, as well as enforcement action from HSE. It is extremely fortunate that nobody was injured, as CCTV footage of pedestrians passing within seconds of the collapse clearly demonstrates, it could have been so much worse."

## MOBILE CRANE OVERTURNS

A mobile telescopic crane has overturned on a new hotel project in the centre of Manchester. The crane operator avoided serious injury as the crane jib came to rest in the nearby River Medlock.

An eye-witness said: "there was a huge bang, really loud. I went over and saw the driver pressed against the shattered window of the cab. It took about five minutes for him to get him out but he didn't appear to

be injured. The arm of the crane has gone into the river, it's only a few feet from the bar next door."

The photograph shows that outriggers on one side of the crane are extended. The position of the crane suggests outriggers on the opposite



side would have been in close proximity to the edge of an excavation. Most mobile crane overturns are due to loading on outriggers exceeding the ground bearing capacity. Lifting plans should always explicitly address this issue.

### Reportable incidents

Group-wide  
Feb 09

0

### Safety Inspection Ratings

Top ranked site:

Park Inn 92%

Group Average 86.1%

### In Brief

#### ◆ Quarterly safety award at Northwood HQ

Cubitt Building and Interiors have been awarded the Quarterly safety award from Carillion at the Northwood HQ site.



#### ◆ Fatality on major London project

The City of London police have confirmed that a 30-year-old man has died on a major construction site in central London. The incident is understood to have occurred on 19th March and the deceased has been named as Richard Chaddock, 30, from Nottinghamshire. Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd is the principal contractor although Mr Chaddock was employed by a sub-contractor working for a steelwork contractor. Further enquiries suggest the death occurred when a mobile elevating working platform (MEWP) was being used.