

# Events company fined after worker injury

An event management company has been fined for failing to ensure the safety of employees during the lifting and moving of a 14-foot-wide park home chassis.

Coventry Magistrates' Court heard how employees at Woodcorner Farm, Coventry were transferring the 14-foot-wide park home chassis through a 13-foot-wide opening on 5 July 2018.

As the opening was too narrow employees were required to push down on the sides of the chassis to angle it through the door whilst it was being manoeuvred by two forklift trucks, one at each end. The chassis slipped off the forks, rebounded off the floor and struck one of the employees on the shoulder. The force of this lifted him off his feet and flung him backwards two metres into the wall of the building. He was knocked unconscious and suffered a broken collar bone.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the lift was not properly planned, organised or carried out safely. Employees were left to devise their own method of moving the chassis, as the company had failed to properly assess the risks and take simple measures to ensure the task was carried out safely.

Sovereign Exhibitions & Events of Units 1-3 Arley Industrial Park, Colliers Way, Arley, Coventry, West Midlands plead guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and have been fined £161,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,345.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Christopher Maher said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to devise safe methods of working and to provide the necessary information, instruction and training to their workers in the safe system of working.

Since the incident the company have widened the opening to allow for safe movement of the park home chassis. Had they done this before the incident these injuries could have been avoided."

## **Notes to Editors:**

1. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We prevent work-related death, injury and ill health through regulatory actions that range from influencing behaviours across whole industry sectors through to targeted interventions on individual businesses. These activities are supported by globally recognised scientific expertise. [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)
2. More about the legislation referred to in this case can be found at: [www.legislation.gov.uk/](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/)

3. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

The post [Events company fined after worker injury](#) appeared first on [HSE Media Centre](#).

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## [West Midlands companies sentenced after worker suffers life-changing injury](#)

Two companies have today been fined after a contractor suffered permanent damage to his eyesight following a fall.

Dudley Magistrates' Court heard how, on 12 April 2016, a contractor, who worked for Kingswinford Engineering Co Limited, had been hired to repair a section of pipework on the roof of a warehouse owned by James Durrans & Sons' when he slipped and fell, banging his head. The worker has suffered permanent blindness to one eye and blurred vision in the other resulting from his head injury.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found multiple failings in relation to how the work, specifically access to the roof, was planned, managed and monitored. In particular neither company had undertaken a suitable and sufficient risk assessment, nor had they agreed a safe system of work for the repair of the pipework which required access to the roof.

Kingswinford Engineering Co Limited of Shaw Road, Dudley pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £18,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,000.

James Durrans & Sons Limited of Anchor Road, Bilston pleaded guilty to breaching Section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and has been fined £100,000 and ordered to pay costs of £20,000.

Speaking after the case, HSE inspector Edward Fryer commented:

"This incident highlights the need for contractors to be managed properly. Both the contractors and those engaging them must assess the risks of the site and the specific work to ensure it can be done safely. In this case, no risk assessment was carried out and arrangements made to access the roof put workers at significant risk of falling from height leading to this worker suffering a life-changing injury."

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## [Construction company and employee sentenced after worker killed](#)

A construction company and one of its employees have been sentenced for health and safety breaches after another worker was struck by an excavator and was killed.

Southwark Crown Court heard how, on 2 March 2014, during night work at a construction site in Stratford a site operative, Kevin Campbell, was struck by an excavator mounted vibrator (EMV) attached to a 35-tonne excavator that he was working in close proximity to. Mr Campbell had been disconnecting lifting accessories from a metal pile that had just been extracted from the ground when he was crushed against a concrete wall a short distance away. Mr Campbell died from his injuries. Another site operative who was directly next to him also faced a risk of being struck.



# Health and Safety Executive

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive found the construction company which was the principal contractor; Clancy Docwra Limited, failed to ensure the safety so far as is reasonably practicable of its employees and of others who were not their employees working on the site. The investigation also found that Daniel Walsh, who was the site supervisor for the site and the person operating the excavator at the time, failed to take reasonable care for other persons on site at the time.

Clancy Docwra Limited of Coppermill Lane, Harefield, Middlesex pleaded not guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £1,000,000 and ordered to pay costs of £108,502.30.

Daniel Walsh of Eastcote, Orpington, Kent pleaded not guilty to breaching Section 7(a) of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and was given a 6 month custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay costs of £15,000.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Darren Alldis said:

“This death was wholly preventable and serves as a reminder as to why it is so important for companies and individuals to take their responsibilities to protect others seriously and to take the simple actions necessary to eliminate and minimise risks.

“If the risks had been properly considered by the company, and simple and appropriate control measures were put in place, then the likelihood of such an incident occurring would have been significantly reduced. Informing all site operatives of the specific risks they face when carrying out such tasks and the control measures required of exclusion zones, the importance of communication and the mandatory use of excavator safety levers were simple actions that should have been put in place and their effectiveness monitored.

“All those with legal responsibilities must be clear that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action including where appropriate prosecution against those that fall below the required standards”.

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# Company sentenced after worker injured by unguarded machinery

A company that manufactures absorbent products has been fined after an agency worker suffered a life-changing injury to her hand when it was caught in a rotating fan blade.

Manchester Magistrates' Court heard how, on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the 34-year-old agency worker had been working her second shift at the NPS Worldwide UK Limited site at Oldham. While removing a blockage inside the filling machine she had been operating, her fingers became caught in an unguarded rotating fan. The agency worker lost parts of all of her fingers on her right hand, sustained extensive scarring to her stomach following an unsuccessful attempt to generate new skin growth to save her fingers, and continues to suffer post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the incident and the injuries sustained.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the fan had not been suitably guarded, putting employees and agency workers at risk. The company had failed to carry out a suitable risk assessment and provide adequate information, instruction and training to workers. No first aid provision was available on the night shift when the incident occurred, and this contributed to the injured person suffering further as incorrect first aid was administered.

NPS Worldwide UK Limited of Vulcan Business Park, Derker Street, Oldham, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and Regulation 3(2) of the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981. The company was fined £28,000 and ordered to pay costs of £7,771.

HSE inspector Sharon Butler said after the hearing: "This injury could have easily been prevented and the risk should have been identified.

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

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3. More information about machinery risks can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/textiles/machinery/fibre-preparation.htm>

4. HSE news releases are available at <http://press.hse.gov.uk>

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## [Company and director sentenced after multiple workers diagnosed with hand arm vibration syndrome](#)

A company providing specialised services in rock drilling, cliff stabilisation and rock anchors, and its director, have been sentenced after a number of workers were diagnosed with hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).

Plymouth Magistrates' Court heard how three employees had developed and reported symptoms of HAVS but no action was taken. The employees used tools such as rock drills and jack hammers for cliff stabilisation work which is often carried out by abseiling down a cliff and using the tools horizontally while working from ropes. The affected persons began to experience symptoms such as pins and needles and aching hands, in one case since 2000. An occupational nurse was employed in 2016 and the HAVS problem was identified.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the risk assessment did not identify the actual exposure to vibration and had used out of date vibration data. The investigation also found there was no health surveillance in place until 2016 and employees were not made aware of HAVS and its symptoms. When symptoms were reported, the company had failed to take action.

Celtic Rock Services Limited of Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The company has been fined £36,667 and ordered to pay costs of £3,560.

Alwyn Griffith Hughes Thomas, director of the company, also of Bossell Road, Buckfastleigh, Devon pleaded guilty to breaching Section 37 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. He has been given a 12 week custodial sentence, suspended for one year, a 12 week curfew and ordered to pay costs of £3,560.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Caroline Penwill said: "This was a case of the company and its director completely failing to grasp the importance of HAVS risk assessment and health surveillance.

"If they had understood why health surveillance was necessary, it would have ensured that it had the right systems in place to monitor workers health and

the employees' conditions would not have been allowed to develop, one of which was to a severe, life altering stage."

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