
Company Fined Â£16,000 After Rigger Dies from Fall

Description

In a tragic incident that underscores the critical importance of workplace safety, ELP Broadcast and Events Ltd has been fined Â£16,000. This penalty follows the heartbreaking death of a worker, Russell Bowry, who lost his life due to a fall while working on a construction project. The incident took place on March 13, 2018, at the Cardington Hangar Studios in Bedfordshire, a site known for hosting various entertainment events.

Russell Bowry, a 52-year-old self-employed rigger from Lower Stondon, Bedfordshire, was part of a dedicated assembly team. Their task was to construct a temporary rehearsal stage for an upcoming musical performance. This stage was not just any structure; it was designed as a water and windproof cube, intended to facilitate rehearsals for the show. However, during the assembly process, tragedy struck. While working on the roof of this cube, Mr. Bowry fell through, plummeting a staggering 10 meters to the ground below. Despite the best efforts of medical personnel, he succumbed to his injuries three days later.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) took immediate action, launching a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding this tragic event. Their findings revealed a series of significant safety violations committed by ELP Broadcast and Events Ltd. The investigation highlighted that the company had failed to adequately plan and implement a safe system of work for its employees. Moreover, it became evident that the company had not properly enforced its own health and safety policy. This lack of oversight and appropriate supervision measures contributed to the unfortunate outcome.

The HSE guidelines for working at height are clear and emphasize the necessity of adhering to safety protocols. These guidelines exist to prevent incidents like the one that led to Mr. Bowry's death. The negligence displayed by ELP Broadcast and Events Ltd in this case is a stark reminder of the responsibilities that employers have to ensure the safety of their workers.

On November 22, 2023, ELP Broadcast and Events Ltd appeared before Luton Magistrates' Court, where they pleaded guilty to breaching The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. This breach resulted in not only the Â£16,000 fine but also an additional cost burden of Â£2,968.70. The legal repercussions serve as a warning to other companies in the entertainment sector about the importance of maintaining rigorous safety standards.

Samantha Wells, an enforcement lawyer from the HSE, expressed her deep concern regarding the incident. She stated, "This tragic incident should not have happened. It is vital the entertainment sector has safe systems of work so when it puts on a good show, the workers behind the scenes are protected at all times." Her words resonate with the need for a cultural shift in how safety is prioritized within the industry.

The entertainment industry, while often focused on delivering spectacular performances, must not overlook the safety of those who work tirelessly behind the scenes. The loss of Russell Bowry is a poignant reminder that every worker's life is invaluable. Companies must take proactive measures to

ensure that safety protocols are not just in place but are actively enforced and followed.

In conclusion, the case of ELP Broadcast and Events Ltd serves as a critical lesson for all industries, particularly those involving high-risk activities such as construction and entertainment. The tragic loss of a dedicated worker highlights the dire consequences of neglecting safety standards. It is imperative that all employers recognize their responsibilities and commit to fostering a safe working environment. Only then can we hope to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

CATEGORY

1. Bedfordshire

POST TAG

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