



Press Release:

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FPS Issues Safety Alert Raising Awareness of the Dangers of Poor Working Platforms

The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) is reminding piling companies to ensure that Working Platforms for rigs have been properly risk assessed, following a number of reports from its members that they are being asked to work on inadequate platforms.

FPS Chairman, Jim De Waele, said: "It is concerning that as the economy improves, FPS members are increasingly reporting arriving on-site only to be met with a poor, or even no working platform; and this is extremely worrying.

It is thirteen years ago when FPS Members passed a resolution agreeing not to commence work on any site unless a properly completed Working Platform Certificate had been issued. Since then, thankfully, the number of incidences of rig instability involving FPS members has declined significantly.

However, now that we are witnessing an upturn in work, we must not forget the lessons of the past. We feel it right to raise awareness of this important and extremely safety critical issue, to the wider piling community and not just within the membership. We would also urge Clients and Principal Contractors tempted to cut corners with such a safety critical area to consider the implications and to not put pressure on the piling contractor to work under such circumstances."

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FPS members rely on the industry to provide a safe working environment and insist this is confirmed by way of a properly completed Working Platform Certificate.

Information about this safety alert, the Working Platform Certificate or for detailed information regarding working platforms can be obtained from the FPS via its website www.fps.org.uk.

-Ends-

Notes to Editor:

Established in 1964, the Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS) has proactively worked with its members to drive up standards within the industry. From a handful of members back in the days when rotary techniques were coming into use and crane-mounted and hydraulic equipment was in its infancy, the FPS represents most of the leading piling and geotechnical specialists in the construction sector.

Its independent auditing process, which all prospective members need to go through ensures the highest standards are met, and this audit is repeated every three years to ensure standards are maintained and continually improved.

The FPS works closely with its members to establish standards and provide guidance across all piling and geotechnical areas as well as on wider construction related issues that affect the sector such as Building Information Modelling (BIM). Safety and training is always one of its highest priorities.

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Jim De Waele, Chairman of The Federation of Piling Specialists (FPS)



Overturned Rig