

Company fined £1.6m following the death of 'happy-go-lucky' 24-year-old

A company has been fined £1.6m after a 24-year-old man was crushed to death.

Jack Phillips lost his life on 8 August 2019 while working for Brand Energy and Infrastructure Services UK Ltd at South Cliff Tower in Eastbourne.

His parents say they are "no longer complete" following the loss of their "happy-go-lucky" son.



Jack Phillips (pictured) was 24 when he lost his life

Jack had been assisting while temporary Mast Climber Work Platform sections were being lifted by a lorry mounted crane.

The load fell on top of Jack when the lifting sling which was attached to the crane snapped.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Sussex Police found Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services UK Ltd, trading as Lyndon SGB, failed to properly plan the lifting operation of the work platform. The company, a provider of temporary access equipment, had failed to identify a requirement for safe exclusion zones. The company also failed to have a suitable robust system in place to ensure all accessories had been thoroughly examined or disposed when expired. This resulted in out-of-date slings being used.



Jack had been assisting while temporary Mast Climber Work Platform sections were being lifted by a lorry mounted crane.

HSE guidance can be found at: [Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations \(LOLER\) – HSE](#)

Jack's parents, Scot and Nichola, said in a statement: "How do you put into words the utter devastation you feel. Our child, our only son, is dead. Our life, our family's life has now changed forever. We are no longer complete without Jack, we will never see our baby boy, the boy we nurtured and helped grow into a young man, get married, raise a family, or grow old.

"His sisters will never have the honour of him being an uncle to their children. We will never have the honour of seeing or meeting his children. Jack was a happy go lucky "Jack the lad". Everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him, loved him."

Brand Energy and Infrastructure Services UK Ltd, of Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. The company was fined £1,600,000 and ordered to pay £23,193.60 in costs at Brighton Magistrates' Court on 27 November 2024.

HSE principal inspector Ross Carter said: "This tragic incident led to the wholly avoidable death of a young man. This death could so easily have been prevented if Jack's employer had fulfilled their statutory duty to plan and manage the risks associated with lifting equipment and lifting operations.

"Brand Energy and Infrastructure Services UK Ltd failed in its duty of care to all its operatives, including Jack, in the way it planned and implemented the lifting operations and the slack customs and practices it allowed to become part of the safety culture with regard to lifting."

This HSE prosecution was brought by HSE enforcement lawyer Alan Hughes and supported by HSE paralegal officer Helen Jacob.

Notes to editors:

1. [The Health and Safety Executive](#) (HSE) is Britain's national regulator for workplace health and safety. We are dedicated to protecting people and places, and helping everyone lead safer and healthier lives.
2. More information about the [legislation](#) referred to in this case is available.
3. Further details on the latest [HSE news releases](#) is available.
4. HSE does not pass sentences, set guidelines or collect any fines imposed. Relevant sentencing guidelines must be followed unless the court is satisfied that it would be contrary
5. Following a trial, Mr Ronald Efferion was found not guilty of breaching Section 7(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.