

# ATLAS

The Highest Standards  
for 70 years



## Introducing ATLAS

The Association of Technical Lightning and Access Specialists (ATLAS) has been representing the key companies in the lightning protection and specialist access industry since 1946. Now celebrating its 70th anniversary, ATLAS is at the forefront of industry developments and committed to improving working practices, technical excellence and the skills of the workforce to provide the highest quality service to the industry's clients.

Lightning protection and specialist access are highly skilled trades which require undertaking by qualified Specialist Contractors to guarantee quality work which is compliant with industry standards.

ATLAS members lead the way in health and safety standards, technical innovation and training and skills, which means that clients using an ATLAS member can be assured that they will get the most cost effective solution from an industry expert.

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## A Wealth of Experience

ATLAS members have been at the forefront of the lightning protection and specialist access trades for many years and undertake access, inspection, repair and maintenance work on a range of industrial structures, commercial and conservation and heritage buildings.

The client base of member companies ranges from nuclear reprocessing facilities, power stations, petro-chemical refineries, telecommunication companies through to small manufacturing sites and churches.

The diverse range of sites worked on by ATLAS members, includes:

- Crossrail
- E.ON
- English Heritage
- ESSAR
- National Trust
- Network Rail
- Olympic Park
- Scottish & Southern Energy
- St. Paul's Cathedral
- Transport for London



## Celebrating its History

Originally formed as the National Federation of Master Steeplejacks and Lightning Conductor Engineers and now celebrating its 70th anniversary, ATLAS has a long history of working with key stakeholders to improve working practices and develop guidance and training.



**1946**

The National Federation of Master Steeplejacks and Lightning Conductor Engineers formed

**1946/47**

Worked with Government to secure additional allowances for sector operatives

**1947**

Worked with the BSI and represented on a number of Committees

**1950**

Began working closely with UCATT



**1950**

Gained a Certificate of Exemption for steeplejacks from the Building (Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1948

**1952**

Successfully campaigned to Government to keep the Bosun's Chair

**1966**

BS 4067 Specification for Steel Chimneys launched

**1974**

Steeplejack and Lightning Protection Training Group (SLPTG) formed

**1976**

First steeplejack apprenticeship

**1985**

BS 6651 Protection of Structures Against Lightning jointly launched by ATLAS and the BSI

**1994**

Steeplejack CSCS card introduced

**1994**

First lightning protection apprenticeship

**1992**

Sector NVQs developed

**2003**

Changed its name to ATLAS

**2006**

BS EN 62305 introduced. ATLAS involved in harmonising the standard across Europe

**2014**

Introduced industry leading guidance endorsed by the HSE, Safe Use of Ladders in the Specialist Access Industry

**2015**

Implemented CPD requirements for Lightning Conductor Engineers and Steeplejacks renewing their CSCS cards

**2016**

ATLAS working on behalf of the sector for 70 years

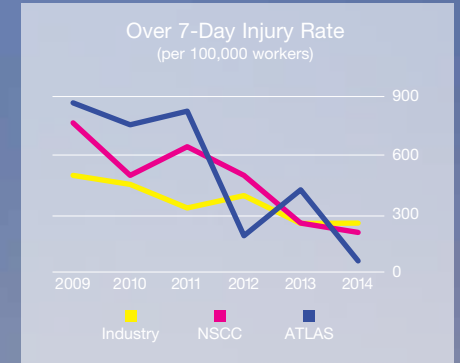
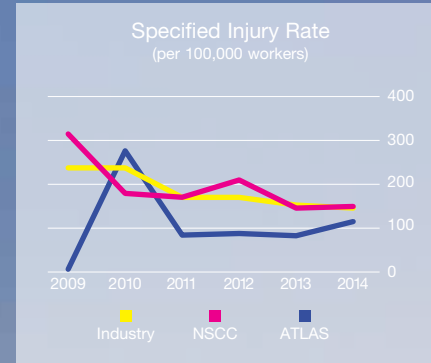


## The Safest Choice

ATLAS members submit information each year on accidents occurring to their workforces. The latest report<sup>1</sup> demonstrates that ATLAS members are the safest choice, compared to the wider industry. Members reported just two specified injuries in 2014, which is 26% lower than the wider industry and only one over 7-day injury which is 79% lower than the wider industry.

The latest statistics demonstrate the commitment of ATLAS members to ensure the continued safety of their operatives who spend significant amounts of time working at extreme height.

<sup>1</sup>ATLAS Accident Survey Report 2014



### ATLAS members had:

- no fatalities for the 6th consecutive year
- lowest accident incidence rate ever recorded
- a 7-day injury rate which is 79% lower than the wider construction industry



## Taking Training to new Heights

ATLAS has a long history of developing and delivering training for the sector and works closely with the Steeplejack and Lightning Protection Training Group (SLPTG) to provide training tailored to the sector's needs.

The 5 sector NVQ Level 2 and 3 qualifications, in Steeplejacking, Lightning Conductor Engineering and Lightning Protective Systems Inspection and Testing, are available via a mixture of apprenticeship and upskilling for experienced workers. In a sector comprising around 1,000 operatives, ATLAS is proud that around 10% of the workforce gains an NVQ qualification each year.

ATLAS promotes continued development, with a minimum requirement that 1% of an operative's time is spent training, a target which members frequently outperform. In conjunction with SLPTG and CSCS, the industry card body, requirements are in place for operatives renewing their cards to prove that they continue to meet standards set by the sector.

- Over 6% of operatives' time spent training
- 30 apprentices qualified each year
- Working at Height for Lightning Conductor Engineers and Anchors for Steeplejacks, compulsory refresher training for operatives



## Leading the Way

ATLAS remains the driving force behind continued improvements in the lightning protection and specialist access sectors, which have resulted in the continued development of a safer working environment for its members and providing the springboard for a traditionally based sector, to thrive in today's modern construction world.

Over the last 10 years great strides have been made in the lightning protection and specialist access industry with ATLAS assisting in the delivery of Standards including:

- **BS EN 62305: 2011**
- **Safe Use of Anchors**
- **Safe Use of Ladders in the Specialist Access Industry.**

This guidance will be complemented by **Safe Use of Winches in the Specialist Access Industry** in 2016 further supporting ATLAS members to remain at the forefront of the specialist access sector.



## Specialist Access

There is an increased calling from clients to work on more diverse structures and across a range of scenarios. Whilst the term steeplejack is still used, modern steeplejack companies employ a multi-disciplined core team, all of whom are trained to work at height.

As steeplejacks are multi-skilled they have vital trade skills as well as the ability to access tall structures and work from ropes. Employing one Specialist Contractor can save money, minimise health and safety and logistical coordination issues and negate the need for time consuming access systems, including scaffolding.

The use of rope access is fast becoming a primary system for inspection and maintenance throughout all industrial sectors allowing safe and rapid access to difficult to access locations for a wide range of engineering functions. Combining rope access with more traditional steeplejacking techniques, the system becomes invaluable as a means of quick, safe and economical access.

When selecting your Specialist Contractor, don't forget that where abseilers come down, steeplejacks can also go up!

### Steeplejacks

**Mechanical Skills**

Including:

- Brick layers
- Civil/corrosion engineers
- Electrical Engineers
- Joiners
- Lightning Protection Engineers
- PCN inspectors
- Welder/fabricators
- Steel erectors

**Access Skills**

Including:

- Basic scaffolding
- IRATA
- PASMA
- Rope access
- Slinger

- Steeplejack companies employ a multi-disciplined core team
- Work at height specialists
- Where abseilers come down, steeplejacks can also go up!



## Inspect and Protect

### For clear standards of competency, specify ATLAS members

The fundamental principles of a lightning protection system (LPS) is to allow the continued functioning of equipment, the protection of the building and the safety of the people inside.

With over 300,000 lightning strikes in the UK each year, structures could be at risk unless an adequate inspection programme is in place.

An inadequate LPS can lead to severe damage such as fire and loss of electrics affecting computers and alarm systems. Uninsured losses as a result of a lack of maintenance can lead to loss of production.

Regular maintenance will ensure the installed LPS conforms and performs to the original standard, so when a lightning strike does occur the structure, its contents, equipment and the people within the building will be protected and continue to function.

A full test and inspection should be undertaken every year (six-monthly for structures with a risk of explosion) by a competent person who has the relevant training, experience and qualifications.

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### When instructing a Specialist Contractor, request:

- **Specialist Qualifications**  
Including NVQ 3 Lightning Protective Systems Inspection and Testing and accreditation to BS EN 62305.
- **Inspection Procedure**  
An LPS inspection is more than a test to an earth and includes a visual inspection, damage and separation distance check and continuity testing.
- **Reporting**  
A final certificate and report should be submitted and include details of system compliance, isolated earth readings and drawings.

- **Professionalism**  
ATLAS members hold appropriate levels of insurance.

**Further advice on choosing a Specialist Contractor is available on the ATLAS website.**







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