

Working safely on scaffold towers

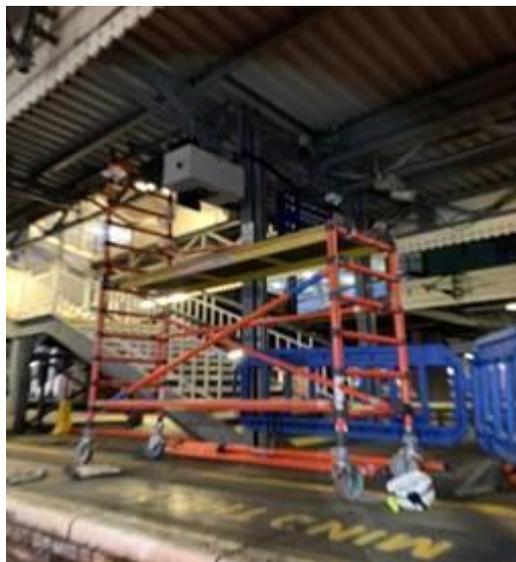
Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

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Date of issue: 30/12/2019

Location: Paddington Station

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Overview

On 28th December 2019 a team went to undertake the final installation testing of a banner repeater signal head that had been installed on platform 11 of Paddington Station.

A GRP tower scaffold suitable for working in local vicinity of overhead line equipment (OLE) was utilised to access the banner repeater.

The tower had been constructed and de-constructed four times during the course of the shift. It was utilised by four separate teams.

Whilst accessing the tower to test the banner repeater, part of the tower became detached, securing clips had not been correctly used when the tower was constructed, resulting in that part of the tower and the member of staff falling to the platform and then into the four foot.

The member of staff is in hospital with broken bones but is expected to make a good recovery.

Discussion Points

Sites should check that tower scaffold have been correctly constructed by competent, trained staff.

- As a person in charge do you know your responsibilities when overseeing work with tower scaffolds?
- What competencies do you or your team hold to construct tower scaffolds?
- Who in your team checks that scaffolds have been correctly constructed?
- What would you look for to make sure a tower scaffold is correctly constructed?
- Do you close call or use the work safe procedure if towers aren't correctly constructed?
- Review the appropriate selection of access equipment for the task being undertaken, is there a better option considering the hierarchy?