

Safety Stand Down October 2021

Paddington Station – unsafe work at height

Paddington Station 2019 Fall From Height

You may remember a Network Rail briefing sent out last year regarding a serious incident that occurred at Paddington Station. Another contractor undertaking testing works fell from a mobile scaffold tower suffering fractured vertebrae, ribs and a collar bone.

Please watch the video below:

UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS

**are the most significant cause of
accidents in the
construction industry**

Works At Paddington

Fast forward to September 2021 and we are working in the exact same location where the contractor fell from the mobile tower suffering serious injuries.

Station staff had raised concerns with the station management team who reviewed CCTV footage, this showed our employees working in an unsafe manner for sustained periods of time.

Our HSQE team have reviewed the CCTV footage and found over 40 health and safety breaches which could have resulted in a serious injury.

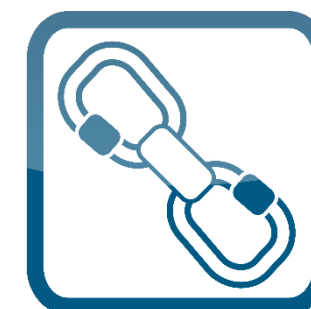
The health and safety issues found in this footage have been summarised in the following slides.

Mobile Tower Use

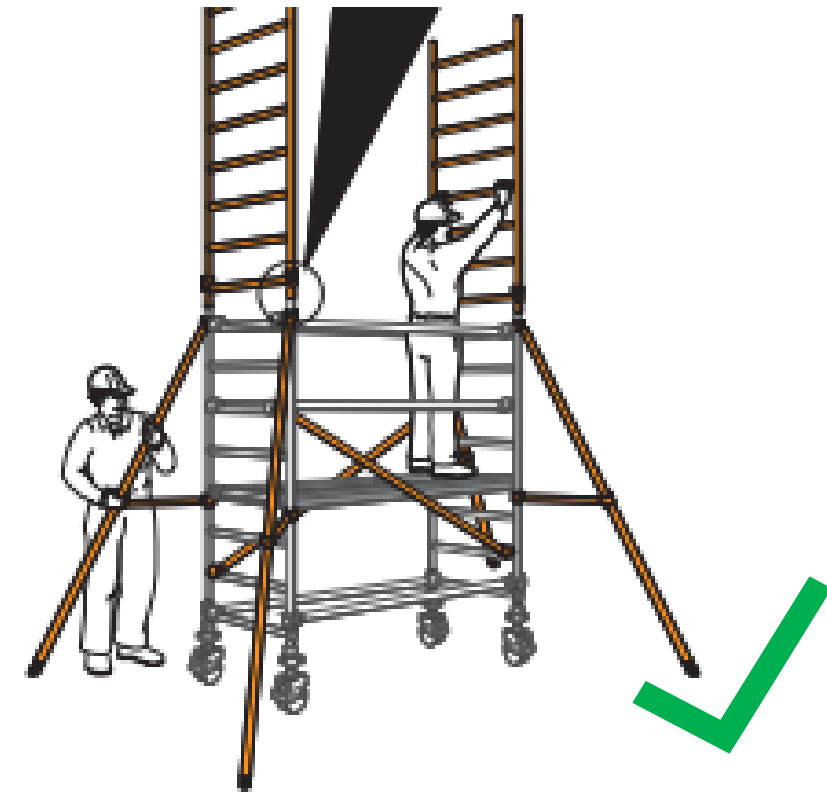


Our employees were seen erecting mobile towers incorrectly, this resulted in a number of occasions where they did not have handrails in place and were at risk of a fall from height.

**These are all Network Rail Lifesaving Rule Breaches.
Always use fall protection when working at height, unless other protection is in place.**



Mobile Tower Use



When erecting mobile towers you **MUST NOT** climb onto the deck until all guardrails are in place.

To take down the tower, reverse the building sequence, when removing guardrail braces, unlock the claws furthest from the trap door and then return immediately to the protection position within the trap door.

Mobile Tower Use



Climbing up outside of mobile tower.

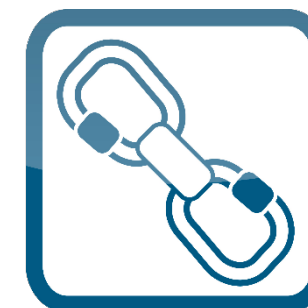


Missing platform under handrail section increasing size of fall if op was to slip from handrail section.



Climbing up outside of mobile tower.

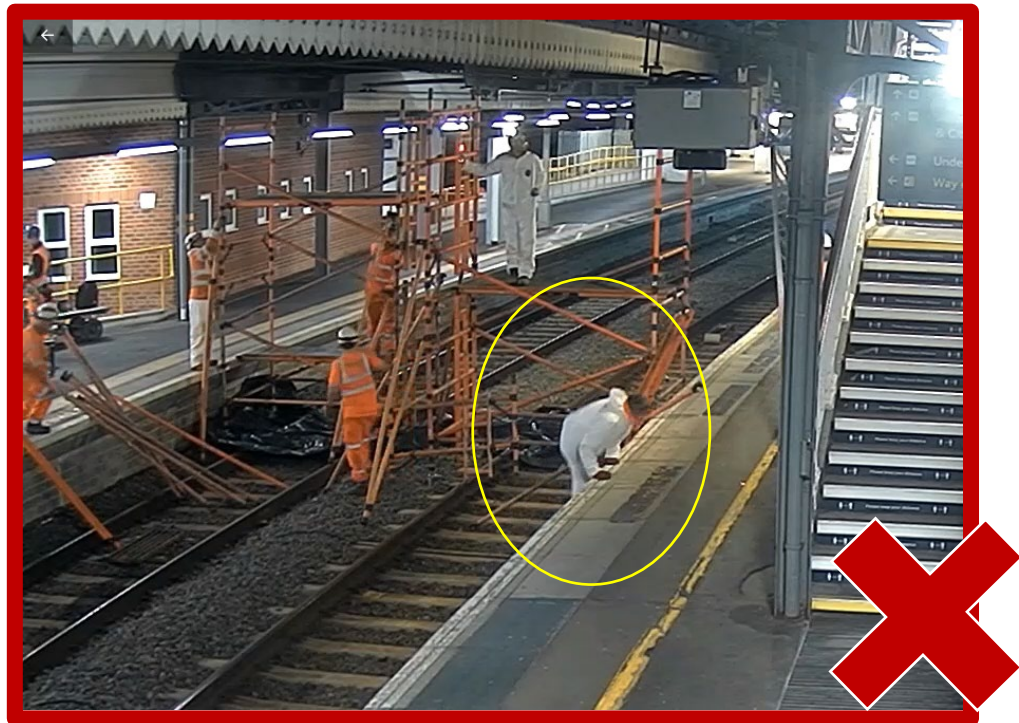
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Safe Access to Track

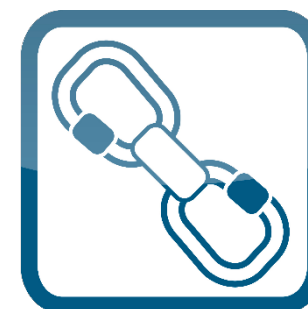
Safe access to track was not provided by the project team, this led to operatives climbing up and down from the platform edge.

Suitable steps should be put in place where people need to access track from platform level.



Example of what system should be in place.

**This is a Network Rail Lifesaving Rule Breach.
Always use fall protection when working at height, unless other protection is in place.**



Working Near Overhead Powerlines



Operatives attempted to move the mobile tower into a different area, they did not dismantle it down to a safe height, and whilst re-positioning it across the track, they snagged the overhead powerlines.



Operatives then setup a aluminium mobile tower which is not permitted in OHLE areas.

Wearing the Correct PPE/RPE.



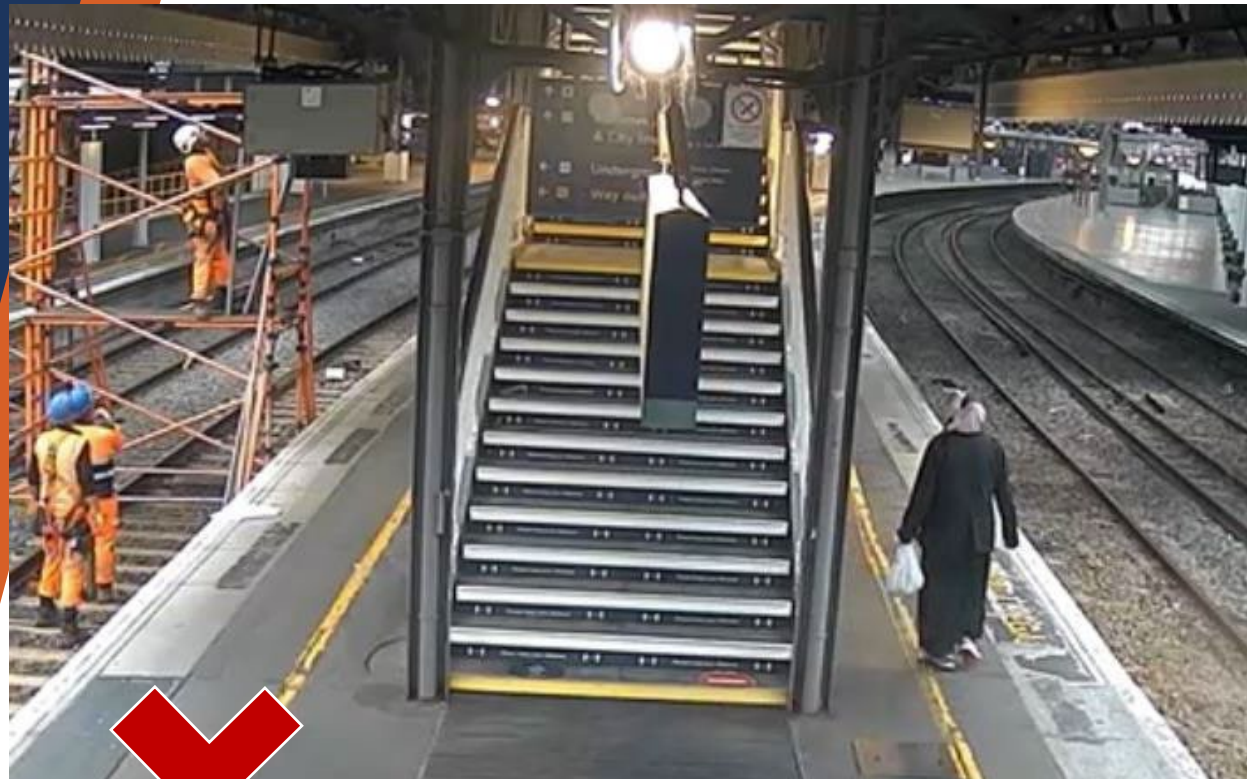
Painting without a mask, mechanical preparation was also being undertaken behind the operative in oranges. No protection from dust was in place.



Two operatives were witnessed without a hard hat, leaving them without protecting from a fall from height or falling object.

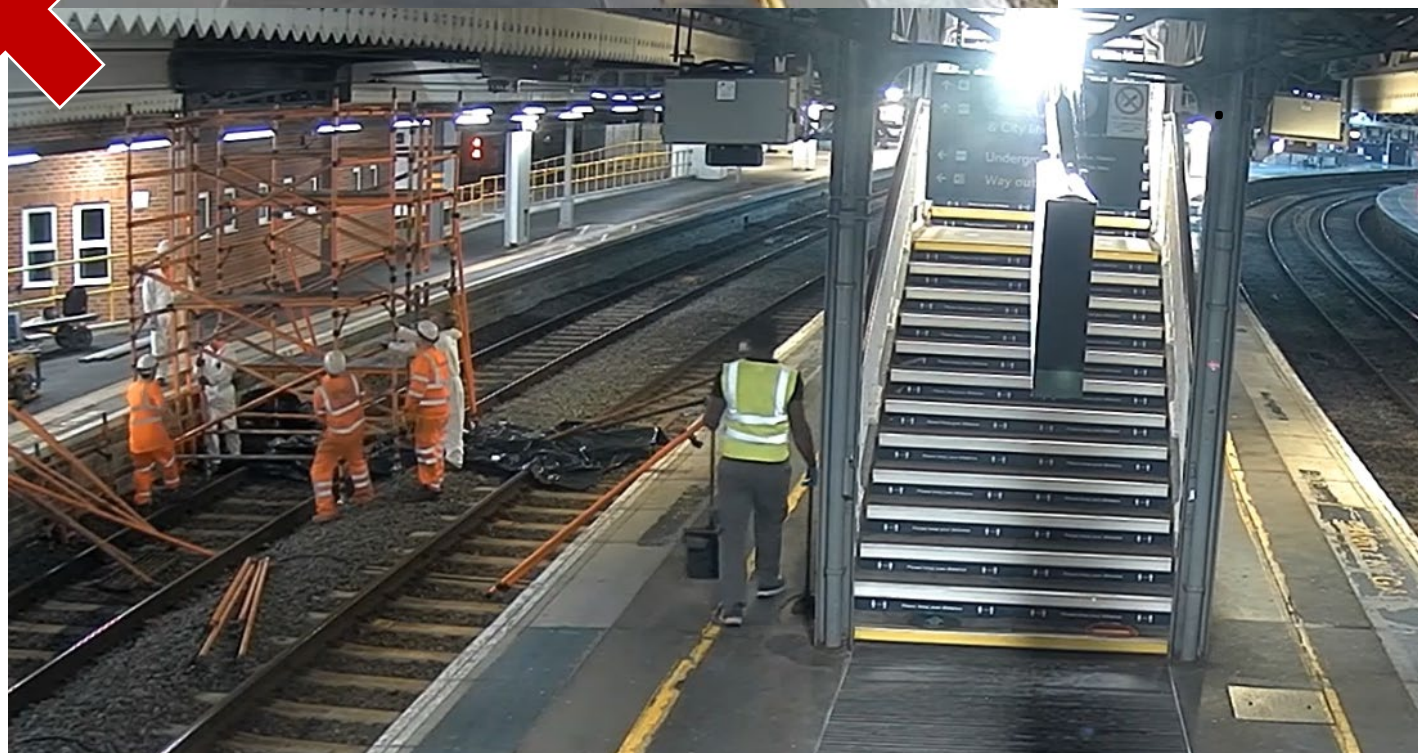
Also they were on-track not wearing their sponsor high-vis vests.

Public Protection



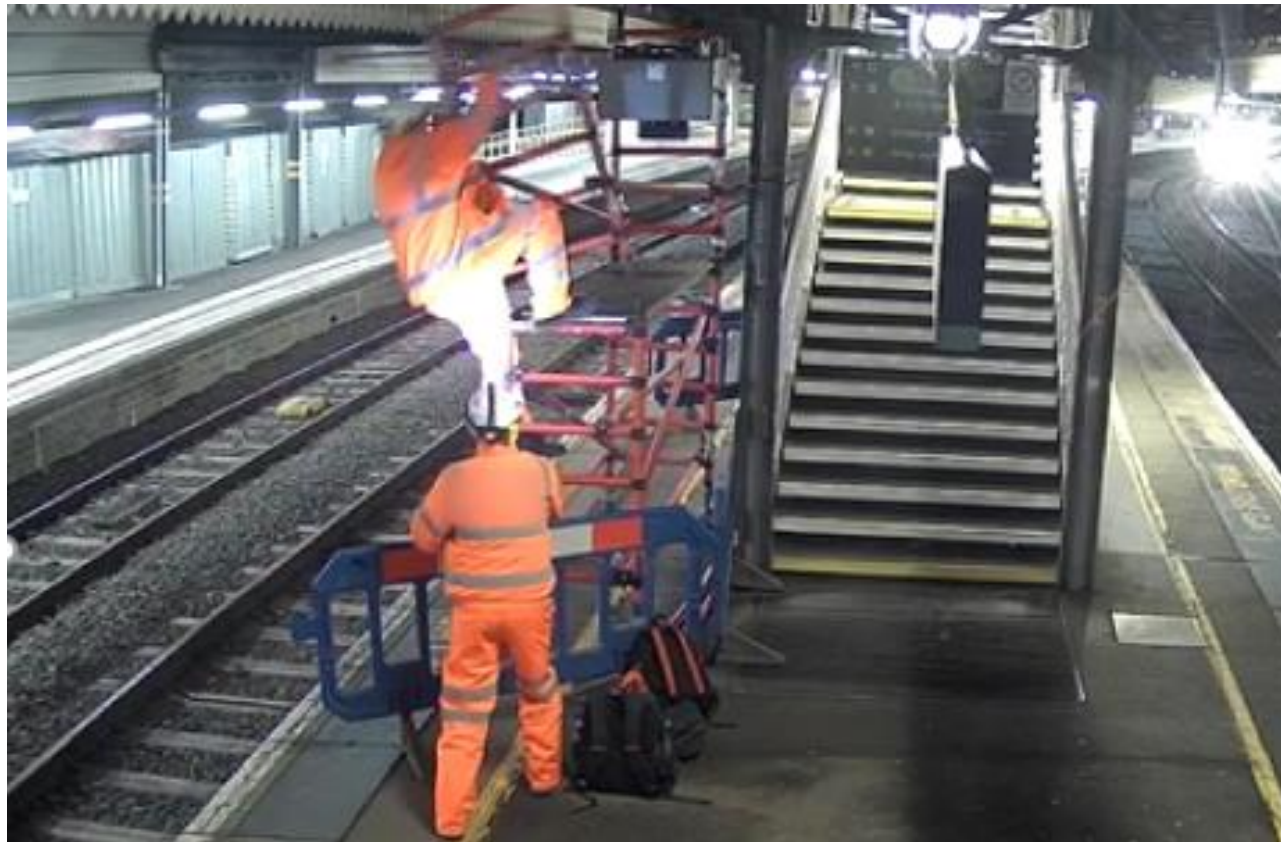
Throughout the shift, several members of the public, other contractors and station staff, such as cleaners, can be seen walking through our worksite.

There are no barriers in place or anyone acting as a site keeper to separate these people from the risk associated with our works.



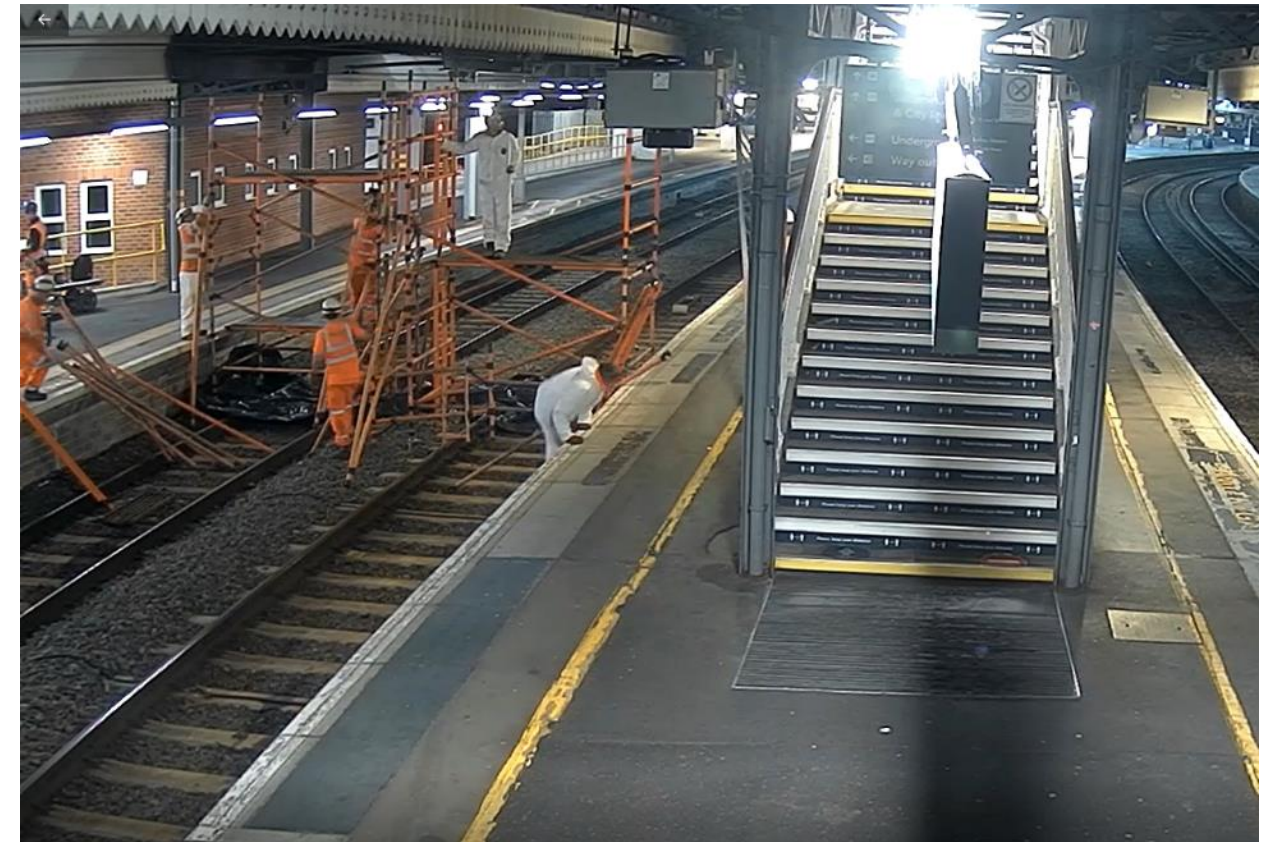
Barriers must be in place to separate our worksite from those who may be harmed by our works.

Works At Paddington



December 2019

- × 17 Unsafe acts
- × 66 witnesses
- × 1 fractured vertebrae, broken ribs and a broken collar bone.



September 2021

- × Over 40 Unsafe acts
- × Over 100 witnesses
- × We were very lucky that no injuries were sustained during this shift.

What do we need to you do?

- If you are working on a mobile tower, ensure you follow the manufacturers instructions, and your PASMA training when erecting, using and dismantling the units.
- Ensure you wear the correct PPE for the task you are undertaking, hard hats are a mandatory item at all times (unless you are using a blast helmet for example).
- If you need to access track level from a platform, suitable stepped access must be in place.
- Before you start work, and during your shift, always Take 5 and check you and your colleagues are working safely.

If you see someone working unsafely you MUST speak up, any one of the 40+ health and safety breaches could have resulted in a serious accident similar to what happened in 2019.

Why You Must Work Safely

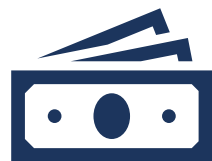
Workplace accidents have a substantial impact on a business, however the cost to the individual can be much worse, it can:



Affect your quality of life - a workplace accident could prevent you from doing hobbies that you love.



Affect your home life – if you can no longer work due to a workplace accident it can put a strain on your relationships at home.



Financial – Workplace accidents can affect your finances, this can then put strain in other areas such as your home life.

What Are Your Responsibilities?

There are 4 things you must do to keep yourself and other people safe at work:

- 1. Follow the training you have been given when you use tools and equipment.*
- 2. Take care of your own and other people's health and safety*
- 3. Co-operate with us on health and safety, follow the rules*
- 4. Tell someone if you think you or others are at risk at work. Tell your manager or the HSQE team if there are any problems with health and safety at work.*

If you are a Site Manager or Supervisor, **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE** for the safety of your workgroup and you must stop work if it is being carried out unsafely.

Failure to fulfil these responsibilities as an operative or manager may result in disciplinary proceedings being taken against you.

How Can you Raise Health & Safety Concerns?

A close call is an incident that has the potential to cause harm to yourself and others.

Close Calls are to be reported as soon as possible. There are several ways that you can do this anonymously, without fear of reprisal, the options are –

- Close Call stations, with cards to complete and submit are available on site.
- WhatsApp message a close call in.
- via QR codes on site



If left unreported next time it may not be a close call, it could be a serious accident. These services can also be used to submit suggestions and complaints.

Refusal to Work - Anyone working for (or on behalf) of the business can refuse to undertake work they have been instructed to do if you have Health & Safety concerns regarding the activity or the environment you are asked to work in.

No disciplinary action can be taken against any employee who raises a concern under this Work Safe procedure.

The process shown to the right shall be followed if you have a concern.

CIRAS anonymous reporting hotline: **0800 4 101 101**

