

15th June 2012

No: IGS 262

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

GRP Scaffold Component Failure

This bulletin is for the attention of;

Infrastructure Projects; Network Operations; Asset Management; NDS; Principal Contractors

Background:

On Thursday 14th June 2012, two contractor operatives, undertaking brick repair work, were working off of a GRP tower at a height of approximately 4-5m, when the cross member that connects the platform, sheared. This caused the operatives to fall to the ground. Both received injuries as a result of this fall and were taken to hospital. It is anticipated that they will both make a full recovery.



This event is currently under investigation. At this stage the cause of the failure is unknown.

For clarity, Network Rail does not specify the use of any particular type of tower scaffold on its sites.

Network Rail reminds all Principal Contractors that they are required to have undertaken appropriate risk assessments when using scaffolding towers. However, in light of the incident involving the GRP tower, Network Rail reminds Principal Contractors using this type of tower that risk assessments include consideration of the following:

- a thorough inspection of GRP components by a competent person experienced in inspecting GRP scaffolds
- a review of the activities being undertaken from the GRP scaffold, to establish that the number of personnel, tools, materials and equipment, used on the working platform are within the safe working load of the platform and
- appropriate levels of site supervision