

3rd June 2014

No: NRS 327

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Fall from height from HGV

For the attention of Network Rail Staff and Contractors delivering and receiving loads from HGVs

Background:

On the night of 21 May 2014 a contractor was injured at a Network Rail location near Tywyn, Wales whilst delivering bullhead rail.

The unloading site was unlit. Lighting was provided by the lights on the HGV cab and an operating light on the crane.

The HGV was loaded with each rail touching the next. To enable cam locks to be placed around the rail head for unloading, the operator had to access the trailer via ladder and bar the rails apart manually.

While moving the rail, the bar slipped and the operator fell off the trailer onto the ground.

The injured person was taken to hospital with chest and head injuries.

An investigation into the accident has begun and a lessons learnt document will be issued once the investigation have been completed.

Immediate Action Required by all persons affected:

- Always have a suitable risk assessment in place before commencing any activity
- Always use equipment for working at heights that is fit for purpose
- Unless it is clear other protection is in place, never work at height without a safety harness

