

Working at Height during the removal of redundant assets

Persons responsible for planning and/or managing the removal of redundant assets are responsible for assessing the risks from this work activity where it may involve working at height. Whilst we should all know the hierarchy of controls for working at height as required in Standard NR/L2/OHS/022, it is appropriate to remind ourselves of the main principles at this time whilst work is underway on the 'Tidy Railway' initiative.

This requirement must be considered for any activity where work at height may be planned involving the following:

- Railway wagons e.g. salmon, osprey, bass, etc.
- Road delivery vehicles e.g. flatbed, low-bed, curtain-sided vehicles, etc.
- Plant e.g. rail trailers, dumpers, MEWP, etc.
- On-Track Machines e.g. Kirov, TRM, TRAMM, etc.

Principles	Hierarchy	Examples
Eliminate the risk	Avoid whenever possible; if not possible then:	
Stop people falling	Undertake from a work platform providing collective protection	Handrails, scaffolds, mobile elevating work platforms, etc.
	Undertake using methods that give individual protection	Harness and lanyards used as a work restraint*
Reduce consequence for those who have already fallen	Provide collective fall arrest equipment	Safety netting, air bags, etc.
	Provide individual fall arrest equipment	Harness and lanyards used as fall arrest*

* Work Restraint: Prevents the user from getting into a position where they could potentially fall.

* Fall Arrest: Lanyard incorporates shock absorber, prevents falling people hitting ground. Only effective if there is sufficient clearance and must have emergency procedures in place to recover individual quickly.

Even when planned in accordance with this hierarchy, the safety of those involved in and around the activity is wholly reliant, and therefore a requirement on people following the Lifesaving Rules, adhering to the planned method of work and using any equipment provided correctly.

For more information please contact Peter Stone, plant and equipment safety advisor. Tel: 07711 600 924 Email: peter.stone@networkrail.co.uk



Our Lifesaving Rules

