

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Fall from height off a hire vehicle

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRB 16/05

Date of issue: 31/03/2016

Location: Hessle Road, Hull

Contact: [Craig Marshall](#), Workforce Health, Safety and Environment Advisor



Overview

On Friday 18 March, a Network Rail off-track team were loading up a hired in 7.5 tonne vehicle for planned weekend works.

The vehicle drop side and right side hand rail had been removed to enable loading of the materials.

The staff member had moved to the rear of the vehicle and as they leaned themselves against the rear vehicle hand rail it suddenly gave way resulting in them falling backwards, landing on the tarmac and injuring their head.

Emergency services were summoned to the scene.

Fortunately after a few days under direct observation the staff member was released from Hull Infirmary and is now making a good recovery.

Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- Initial findings indicate this vehicle hand-rail design differs from Network Rail HGV vehicles. There is only one securing pin that when in place on the post secures both the side and rear vehicle handrails.

Given this:

- How do you familiarise yourselves with hired vehicles and any differences that may exist from any usual vehicle?
- What instructions or information do staff receive from hire companies on vehicle set-up?
- Where work at height may be required what actions must we each take to try and avoid it?
- Are vehicle hand rails suitable to be used for body support?

Copies of Safety Bulletins are available on [Safety Central](#)