



**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc**  
**Risk Assessment for Buckeye Coupling and Uncoupling - Global**

**Risk Assessment - Buckeye Coupling and Uncoupling**

Reference No: STE-44568-83  
Version No: 2  
Assessment Approver: Kevin Jarvis

Department: Global  
Date Of Assessment: 07 January 2022  
Review Due Before: 08 January 2028  
Lead Assessor: Ian Grant  
Team: Mark Young & Kevin Jarvis

**Coupling and uncoupling buckeyes**

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Additional Control Measures	L Overall	S	T	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Personal injury when coupling/uncoupling. Crush, strain or burn	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Always carry out this activity on straight and not curved track if possible. - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Administrative: The GWSR Rule Book must be followed at all times - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Administrative: All staff involved must be trained, competent and certified. - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Administrative: Before starting the driver and shunter must come to a clear understanding of what is involved and what is to be carried out. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of own physical limitations and the weight of couplings. - Effective 6) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of the presence of various pinch points. - Effective 7) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of the possibility of hot steam pipes. - Effective 8) CRITICAL - Administrative: Be aware of other train movements in the area - Effective 9) CRITICAL - Administrative: The procedure for coupling and uncoupling as per the GWSR Rule Book must be followed at all times. - Effective 10) CRITICAL - Administrative: Pay particular attention and be extra cautious during hours of darkness. - Effective 11) CRITICAL - Administrative: Ensure that no other staff than the driver and shunter are anywhere near the activity. - Effective 12) CRITICAL - Administrative: Adopt a good posture when lifting the couplings. - Effective 13) CRITICAL - PPE: Safety Footwear, gloves and hi-viz to be worn. - Effective	2 x	5 =	10	1) PPE: Consider wearing a bump hat to avoid injury. - Effective	2 x	5 =	10	n/a
				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.				Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.			

**Score and Control Measure Notes.**

Risk is medium. Coupling is one of the most hazardous activities on the railway and must be treated with caution.  
Risk remain medium.

**COSHH Assessments**

There are no COSHH assessments associated with this risk assessment.  
Ends