Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc
Risk Assessment for Climbing and Accessing Signal Posts - Signal and Telegraph

Risk Assessment - Climbing and Accessing Signal Posts

Reference No: SIG-44994-15
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Climbing signal posts for routine maintenance and repair and accessing posts for overhaul.

Department: Signal and Telegraph
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Review Due Before: 24 April 2026
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Climbing a signal post using the fixed ladder

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Falling from height Losing grip on the ladder or crows nest/bracket platform hand rail or losing footing on the ladder or crows nest/bracket platform boards.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Ladders and crows nests / bracket platforms to be kept in good condition and visually examined before each use - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: All persons accessing ladders and platforms to be working at height trained - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: All persons accessing ladders and platforms to maintain minimum of three points of contact wherever possible when working and whenever climbing or changing position - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Engineering: Where prolonged work or work considered to be higher risk is to be carried out the S&T harness and fall arrest system to be used and securely fixed to the highest available fixing point on the signal post. - Effective 5) CRITICAL - Engineering: Signal posts not to be climbed during adverse weather conditions; such as high wind, poor visibility, frost and ice, heavy rain, snow. - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	n/a
Health and Safety	Injury from falling items Person working on signal post drops a tool or fitting on a person below.	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Elimination: No-one not directly involved in the work to be allowed to stand within the danger area - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Anyone required to be in the danger area to be fully briefed and to wear PPE, minimum of a hard hat or bump cap - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Tools to be kept secure and to a minimum. Unsecured fittings to be tied to the structure. - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	n/a

Accessing signal posts using the S&T Cuplock Scaffold.

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Falling whilst erecting the scaffold Scaffold will not have full boarding or safety rail provision whilst in the process of construction	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Only persons qualified to erect and dismantle the scaffold to do so - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: S&T harness and fall arrest system to be used, attached to highest fixing point on signal post being scaffolded - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Scaffold not to be erected nor dismantled in adverse weather conditions - Effective	2 x 4 = 8 Medium - Risk to be minimised and controlled so far as is reasonably practical.	None	n n n	n/a

Type	Hazard Cause	Persons Affected	Control Measures	L S T Overall	Additional Control Measures	L S T Overall	Owner/Action
Health and Safety	Falling whilst working on scaffold Losing footing or handhold, accidentally stepping off scaffold	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Scaffold to be correctly assembled with the right boards and hand/safety rails fitted - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Only people qualified to work at height and briefed in its use to use the scaffold - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Consider use of S&T harness and fall arrest system if deemed necessary - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Engineering: Scaffold not to be used in adverse weather conditions - Effective	1 x 4 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	1 x 4 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	n/a
Health and Safety	Collapse of scaffold Incorrectly assembled scaffold or scaffold on poor footing	Volunteers & Staff	1) CRITICAL - Engineering: Only persons qualified to erect and dismantle the scaffold to do so - Effective 2) CRITICAL - Engineering: Always use proper scaffold fittings and boards correctly fitted - Effective 3) CRITICAL - Engineering: Scaffold to be checked by a competent person before each period of use - Effective 4) CRITICAL - Engineering: Scaffold feet to be properly located on prepared ground and load spreading boards where required - Effective	1 x 4 = 4 Low - Risk to be monitored to ensure it remains adequately controlled to an acceptable level.	None	n n n	n/a

COSHH Assessments

There are no COSHH assessments associated with this risk assessment.

Ends