

Fatal accident – fall from height

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

Ref: NRB 18/10

Date of issue: 08/06/2018

Location: Bearsden Station, Glasgow

Contact: [David Burgess](#), Principal Workforce Safety Specialist



Overview

At around 09:30 on 5 June 2018 a 20 year old member of a telecoms installation team working for a principal contractor died in a fall from height. The accident occurred at Bearsden Station, Glasgow during work to renew the public address system.

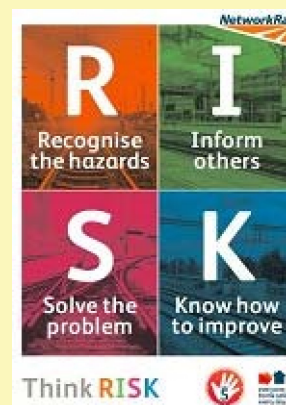
The colleague was fatally injured when he fell from a step ladder during a cable pulling operation. The cable drum had been deployed using a piece of metal conduit, which was left in the centre of the drum when the drum was on its side. The colleague struck the conduit and died from his injuries.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team:

- How do you ensure that work at height is planned and the right equipment used?
- How do you decide what is the right equipment to undertake a work at height task (eg powered access, scaffold, podium ladder, etc)?
- Why must proprietary equipment, such as drum skids and A-frames be used to assist in the cable pulling or deployment rather than pipes or other bars?
- Which of our [lifesaving rules](#) could prevent a repeat of this accident if implemented in the planning stages and on site?

Has your team held a [Think RISK](#) session to help you better understand the approach and why it matters?



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