



Safety in Scouting in Berkshire



BERKSHIRE SAFETY GUIDANCE SHEET

Working at Height (WAH) Regulations, 2005

New regulations for those at work came into force in April, 2005. The aim is to reduce the likelihood and severity of injuries arising from falls at height. There is NO trigger point for the application of these regulations; they apply at all heights.

- The focus of the regulations is risk assessment based, and this technique must be used to determine the hazards, likelihood, severity, and those affected, before arriving at effective ways in which to reduce (if not eliminate) the risks.
- Clearly, avoid working at height whenever possible – can the work be carried out from ground level? If not, and when reasonably practicable, use the access and working platform equipment that gives the greatest stability and provision to stop people from falling from it – such as properly constructed and maintained mobile tower scaffolds etc. Residual risks may be guarded against by the use perhaps, of fall arrest equipment.
- The work equipment should be properly constructed and maintained by competent persons. Records of inspections should be kept. The equipment should be visually inspected prior to each use.
- Remember that the risk assessment should also consider other aspects of the task, such as how tools and materials are to be raised or lowered, fencing off the surrounding areas, overhead hazards (including electricity lines), fragile roofs etc.

If there is any doubt regarding the work to be carried out, it should not be started or allowed to continue, until further guidance has been sought

Further advice : Health & Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk

Scout Association Info line 0845 300 1818

Berkshire Safety in Scouting Co-ordinators

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