



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Control measure

**Safe system of work: Above ground  
structures**



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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# Control measure - Safe system of work: Above ground structures

## TRAINING SPECIFICATION

### Knowledge and understanding

Control measure element	Learning outcome
Type of above ground structure	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The benefits of using joint on-site training to identify and plan for potential incidents at above ground structures</li> <li>• The type of above ground structure</li> <li>• The hazards associated with the type of above ground structure</li> <li>• The types of activity that may be required at an incident in an above ground structure</li> <li>• Why other agencies may need to be involved with or lead in rescue intervention from an above ground structure</li> </ul>
Access and egress	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential limitations for access and egress</li> <li>• The potential presence of an escape hatch that can be used as an emergency exit</li> </ul>
Communication	<p>Understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential for radio communications to be compromised</li> <li>• The need for contingency arrangements using alternative methods of communication, in case radio communications are compromised</li> </ul>

### Practical application



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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Establish the type of above ground structure to identify additional hazards

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Determine the type, purpose and layout of the above ground structure
- Identify hazards and control measures that may be associated with the type of above ground structure

Consider requesting specialist resources if access and egress to an above ground structure is limited

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Request appropriate specialist resources
- Consider declaring defensive mode if access and egress is limited; this may not be appropriate if there is a threat to life

Identify and evaluate all potential routes of access and egress before working at an above ground structure

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Determine the most appropriate access and egress routes
- Determine if there are any alternative routes, such as escape hatches

Establish and maintain safe means of access and egress when working at above ground structures

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish and maintain:
  - Access and ingress routes
  - Alternative routes
  - Emergency or escape routes

Establish an effective system of communication for above ground structures, considering distances and the working environment

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Ensure that communication takes into account any limitations presented by the above ground structure

Maintain visual contact with responders working on above ground structures if possible and use agreed hand or whistle signals

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Maintain line of sight communication between supervisors and operators if possible
- Ensure all personnel in the hazard area are aware of agreed hand or whistle signals



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**Control measure element**

**Learning outcome**

Establish and regularly monitor the effectiveness of communications with personnel operating in above ground structures

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Establish contingency arrangements for alternative methods of communication in case radio communications are compromised