

## Procedures

# NPR 711 Using Lookouts

## Description

This document describes the procedure for using Lookouts

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## Introduction

Lookouts give warning about rail traffic movements to workers in the Danger Zone.



### Warning

Lookouts give warning about, the approach of rail traffic and must not:

- work continuously at the same location for more than 60 minutes, or
- unless specified in the Network Local Appendices, use warning lights to warn of approaching rail traffic, or
- manage the passage of rail traffic, or
- do any other work.

## Equipment

Lookouts need:

- a high-visibility sleeve worn on the arm to give the **ALL CLEAR** handsignal
- two independent forms of effective communication with workers
- if necessary, an audible warning device.

## Placing Lookouts

### Protection Officer

- 1 Identify all possible points of entry into the worksite.

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- 2 For each route leading to the worksite, calculate the Minimum Warning Time (MWT) and Minimum Sighting Distance (MSD) in accordance with NPR 751 Calculating Minimum Warning Time.
- 3 Determine the number of Lookouts needed to keep watch for rail traffic and give warning.
- 4 Place each Lookout in a safe place.

### Note

The maximum number of Lookouts permitted in any running-direction is two.

The additional Lookout must stay within sight and hearing of the Lookout closer to the worksite.

## Worksites over a large area

### Protection Officer

- 1 Make sure that all workers and their equipment are in a safe place before repositioning the Lookout.
- 2 Reposition the Lookout to locations where minimum warning times and communication with the workers are maintained.
- 3 Make sure the Lookout is in position and the line is clear before allowing workers to move.

## Giving warning

### Lookout

- 1 Agree with the Protection Officer on how workers will be warned about the approach of rail traffic.

### Note

Lookouts must not use radios or telephones to warn workers.

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- 2 Stand in a safe place where you can see approaching rail traffic and be within sight and hearing of the workers. If you cannot do both of these safely, tell the Protection Officer.
- 3 Keep a continuous lookout for the approach of rail traffic.
- 4 When rail traffic approaches, warn the workers immediately.
- 5 Only if workers and their equipment are in a safe place, face the approaching train or track vehicle and give the **ALL CLEAR** handsignal to the Driver or Track Vehicle Operator.
- 6 Wait for the Driver or Track Vehicle Operator to acknowledge the **ALL CLEAR** handsignal.
- 7 Make sure that the line is clear before telling the Protection Officer that it is safe for work to resume.
- 8 Tell the Protection Officer if you need to move from your designated position. Do not move from your position until:
  - all workers and their equipment are in a safe place, or
  - a new Lookout is in position.
- 9 Tell the Protection Officer if conditions such as visibility change.

## Related Documents

**NPR 703 Using Absolute Signal Blocking**

**NPR 751 Calculating Minimum Warning Time**

**NPR 753 Using Signal Key Switch Blocking**