

BRS Signal Employee Fall Prevention Issues

Some Talking Points and A Brief Discussion

**Rail Safety Advisory Committee
December 14, 2010**

In a Policy Statement published in the Federal Register in 1978, FRA claimed jurisdiction for fall protection/prevention over signal platforms and structures to the exclusion of OSHA jurisdiction.

Part 213, Subpart B – Bridge Worker Safety Standards, was first promulgated in 1992, with several rule amendments since, to address personnel working on railroad bridges.

These requirements however do not pertain to various signal structures where a signal employee is working at height. Concerns include: deteriorated or cracked signal mast bases; bent or broken ladders; unstable platforms; working on catenary poles, and just employees working in an environment where they could fall.

BRS has requested that FRA either develop regulations, or give jurisdiction back to OSHA.

FRA is not opposed to opening the current requirements to address these concerns, and even update current language, but FRA resources for this task are limited at this time (as with many of you).

An interim measure could be a small task group to work on gathering best practices from a number of railroads, and other potential sources.

Time For Discussion?