



Young Person’s Risk Assessment

- All work activities involve some form of risk. These are controlled through the effective application of the Health and Safety Policy, which includes training, risk assessment, appropriate method statements, use of PPE, and continuing supervision throughout the duration of the work
- For young people further assessment of the risks needs to be undertaken considering, for example, their experience and maturity as well as their physical and mental capacity. This Young Person’s Risk Assessment should be used in conjunction with the task specific risk assessment / method statement which identify, for an adult, the risks involved and the safe method of work.
- Although the young person will only be allowed to work on the F4RN construction activities under the direct control of their parent or guardian, the work party leader will determine whether the young person should be allowed to assist with the specific activity. In some circumstances this means that the young person may be asked to stop work during the construction activity even if they were initially allowed to assist the working party.

Tasks included in the scope of this risk assessment.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Installing ducting - hand digging / mole ploughing / mini-digger | Blowing fibre / Splicing fibre |
| Installing chambers - large / small | Installing customer CPE |

Risk Assessment

| Hazard | Activity | Description of risk | Current control method | Additional controls for young person to make sure that the risk is adequately controlled |
|--------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Manual handling | Movement of drums of ducting and fibre Installation of chambers - heavy concrete covers | Muscle strain Trapped fingers | SP1: Manual handling training Use of mechanical lifting aids Provision of gloves | Supervision by adult (parent / guardian) Younger children not allowed to move, or assist in the movement of, drums of ducting or telecoms chambers. |
| Use of hand tools | Digging trenches / telecoms chambers Cutting ducting | Cuts to hands / feet Muscle strain | SP2: Appropriate footwear Provision of gloves | Use of appropriate sized tools |
| Use of power tools | Drilling to install CPE Cutting holes for ducting in telecoms chambers (hole saw) | Cuts and abrasions Particles in eyes Noise - damage to hearing | SP2: Tools only used by competent persons | Power tools not to be used by young persons under the age of 16. |

| Hazard | Activity | Description of risk | Current control method | Additional controls for young person to make sure that the risk is adequately controlled |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | Provision of PPE (eye protection, hearing protection, gloves) | |
| Slips, trips and falls | General risk - particularly around trenches and holes for telecoms chambers, but also where ducting is installed across drainage ditches | A slip/trip into an open excavation Trip over ducting or discarded tools / equipment. | SP8: No excavation >1m; in general trenches and chambers will be no more than 600mm deep. Safe access and egress Good housekeeping / control of working area | Young persons will not be allowed to play near the working party / work area. No running / skylarking etc. |
| Ladders and working at height | Installing ducting at high level | Fall from height | SP6: Correct use of ladders. | Young persons under the age of 16 will not use ladders. |
| Moving plant and machinery | Tractors and mini-diggers will be used in some phases of the project (eg for mole ploughing, larger trenches and for installing telecoms chambers) | Being run over / crushed Limbs being trapped / crushed | SP3: High visibility clothing Use of banksman People not directly involved kept at a safe distance | Young persons under the age of 14 will not be allowed to assist with operations that involve moving plant or machinery. |
| Compressed air | Blowing fibre | Damage to eyes - either directly from compressed air or from particle blown from the ducting | Eye protection to be worn during any operation involving compressed air. Do not look down the ducting. | Young persons under the age of 14 will not be allowed to assist with operations that involve moving plant or machinery. |
| Glass fibres | Splicing fibre - it is necessary to cut the fibre which may create small glass fibre splinters. | Fibre optic splinter will cause bleeding and/or irritation. | SP12: Only approved technicians to splice fibre | Young persons will only splice fibres if they have been trained and approved to do so. |
| Lasers | Used to transmit the signal down the glass fibre. | Damage to eyes | SP12: Do not look directly down a fibre or into the laser diode output on routers / switches Where possible, lasers will be used where the power output | Young persons will not be involved in operations where exposure to lasers is a possibility. |

| Hazard | Activity | Description of risk | Current control method | Additional controls for young person to make sure that the risk is adequately controlled |
|--------|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | | is too low to cause eye damage. | |

General Comments

The capability and maturity of young people varies greatly between individuals and the definition of an adult at age 18 does not recognise the fact that younger people may be as physically strong and emotionally mature as a young adult. However, it is important that the responsible adult (parent/guardian) understands the capabilities of the young person and does not ask them to do a task which places them in a position of potential harm

Many accidents happen because the situation changes or an assumption is made over the nature of the task or the competence of the person who has been asked to take on that activity. This is particularly the case with young people.

Work sites are not play grounds. Although it would be great if as many people as possible get involved with the construction of the F4RN broadband network, if anyone involved once to play games then these should be kept well away from the work area and working party.