



Risk Assessment Worksheet



1. Project/Work Activity: LOOKOUT TOWER		2. Location: Los Padres National Forest
3. Specific Objective: Injury free work environment (Lookout Tower)	4. Name and Title of Preparer: Craig Melia, Fire Captain	5. Date Prepared: Friday, March 26, 2021

6. Risk Decision Authority: The risk decision authority block should be signed after the worksheet is completed. Use the Risk Decision Authority matrix to determine the authorization required to sign in block 6.

Signature:	Title: Forest Supervisor	Date: June 2, 2026 (Reviewed by Bruce Gunther -Safety Manager) See "Additional FLT Comments" on routing slip
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Identify Hazards		Assess Hazards			Develop Controls	Make Risk Decisions				Implement
7. Task	8. Hazard	9. Hazard Probability	10. Severity	11. RAC	12. Identify hazard mitigations & controls (press [alt + enter] to add a line)	13. Hazard Probability	14. Severity	15. RAC	16. Task Necessary?	17. Hazard Control Assigned to:
Ascending the Lookout Tower	Falling, vibram soles sticking in metal grating	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	•Keep one hand free to use railing. Use headlamp or flashlight with one hand on railing. •Watch footing carefully. •Watch to avoid hitting head on catwalk or trap door edge •Keep stairway clean and in good condition •Provide cautionary signing at stair bottom for added public safety •Avoid carrying heavy or bulky loads •Provide for a non-skid surface on the stairs as needed	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	
Tower Operation	Catwalks, trap doors, falling	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	•Watch trap door area and post safety sign. No running or horseplay on tower •Wear non-skid footwear •Nail down loose boards and railings •Never sit on railings •Nail wire screening between bottom rail and floor if gap is wider than 12 inches •Make public aware of dangers of catwalk and stairway •Check smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers each month. Document inspections	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	
Storm Activity	Lightning, windy conditions	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	•When lightning hazard is imminent, inform dispatcher of approaching thunder cell. Shut off radio, close windows, and stand on insulated stool. When cell has passed, re-establish communication with dispatcher •During wind events make sure door/screens to lookout are closed tightly •Avoid entry and exit during periods of high winds •Be prepared for erratic winds while standing on catwalk and using stairs •Watch for flying debris	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	YES	
Operating Electrical or Gas Appliances	Electrocution, explosion, burns, cuts	Possible	Critical	High	•Conduct annual safety inspections •Repair worn or damaged electrical/gas parts or appliances •Provide metal protection plates under gas appliances •Mark exterior exhaust vent locations •Have First Aid kit on hand. Ensure components have not expired •Do not use stove or oven to heat the lookout	Possible	Critical	High	YES	
Environmental Hazards	Hantavirus, bee stings and bites, disease, illness	Possible	Moderate	Moderate	- Review Hantavirus Risk Assessment Worksheet - Review Insect stings/bites, and poisonous plants Risk Assessment Worksheets	Possible	Critical	High	NO	

Wildland Fire	Tower overrun by wildfire	Possible	Critical	High	•Provide a fire shelter and annual fire shelter training for the lookout occupant. Have 4 additional fire shelters on hand for visitors •Prepare a Lookout Evacuation Plan. Identify escape routes, safety zones, deployment zones, travel routes (primary and secondary), helicopter landing zones, communication procedures and protocols	Possible	Critical	High	NO	
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