

Salmonberry Trail Foundation

Trestle Hazard Assessment

For all volunteers crossing or working on trestles without the pedestrian deck installed. Review the separate training document "[Crossing Undecked Trestles and Bridges](#)" for more information and diagrams.

Hazards	Mitigation
Fall Hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none">Falling between tiesFalling over the sideFalling from support beamsFalling from walkways below grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">When crossing Trestles or Bridges, always follow the procedure described in the "Crossing Undecked Trestles" document.Never walk on the walkways beside the track or under the tracksNever count on a railroad handrail to support yourself.Never walk outside the Tie Clamp beams.Never climb support structures.Use fall protection when working on the bridge per the "Fall Protection Training" document.
Rotted Timber Hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rotted TiesRotted StringersRotted railroad walkway supportsRotted railroad walkway decking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rotted timbers are very hard to detect visually. Assume all timbers are rotten.Place your weight only where multiple beams are supporting you.Place your weight as close to the tracks as possible because that is the strongest point of the bridge or trestle.Assume that all railroad walkways are rotted and will not hold your weight."Sound" a timber with a hammer to determine if it is rotten.
Slipping Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear good boots with aggressive tread.Walk with a trekking pole.Walk slowly and take small steps.Avoid rainy days.Avoid leaves and branches lying on beams.
Tripping Hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Watch for bolts, spikes, and other hardware emerging from the timbers.Watch for warped or bent timbers that produce a trip point.Walk slowly.
Things that can cut or puncture hands or legs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Always wear gloves to protect against metal and wood splinters.Wear heavy work pants.Wear heavy boots with aggressive tread.

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