



Technical Bulletin: Removable Pole Steps
Association for Challenge Course Technology

January 2009

The Association of Challenge Course Technology (ACCT) has become aware of incidents associated with the use of removable "pole steps" on challenge courses.

Pole steps have been adopted from the pole line hardware industry and are typically used on a challenge course as a means to create a removable access climb on the lower section of a tree or pole as access to a high element. The "steps" are removed during non-program use time to prevent unauthorized access to the high elements.

During use, the steps are fitted onto a plate and lag which are permanently attached to the tree or pole. Injuries can occur while climbing or during descent if a participant comes in contact one of the steps during a fall, particularly if contact is made with the upturned end of the step.

ACCT recommends that programs that use pole steps as a part of their access to high elements evaluate their use and consult with a professional challenge course vendor familiar with their program and course design to assess their suitability and proper use on their course.