Using Height Access Poles for Safe Testing Of Fire Detection Systems

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Introduction – Who are Detectortesters

- Manufacturers of industry standard test equipment for testing fire detectors
- Re-branded from No Climb Products to detector**testers** in 2007
- British owned and based in Hertfordshire, UK.
- Close relationships, approvals and endorsements from global detector manufacturers
- Export to 100+ countries
- ISO 9001:2008 approved
- The Queen's Award for Enterprise: Innovation 2014

solo detectortesters
testifire MULTI-STIMULUS DETECTOR TESTER
scorpion REMOTE DETECTOR TEST TECHNOLOGY
smokesabre SMOKE DETECTOR TESTER
trutest DETECTOR SENSITIVITY TESTER

Learning Objectives

- At the end of the module delegates will be expected to have a basic understanding of:
  - Awareness of UK H&S directives
  - Various height access solutions and associated risks
  - Benefits associated with height access poles
  - Maximum working heights (reach) & angles for access poles
  - The importance of carrying out a Risk Assessment
  - Avoiding strain and injury during use
  - Safely extending & lowering Solo poles
  - Other height access solutions
  - Solo pole range
  - Care and inspection of poles
  - Service & repair
- There is a short test at the end to confirm your learning, and a certificate will be awarded when you pass.

The Risks of Working at Height

- In the UK, Health & Safety Executive (HSE) estimate that 1.5 million working days were lost last year due to slips, trips and falls from height

- The HSE Working at Height regulation states:

  "avoid work at height where it *is reasonably practicable to do so*"

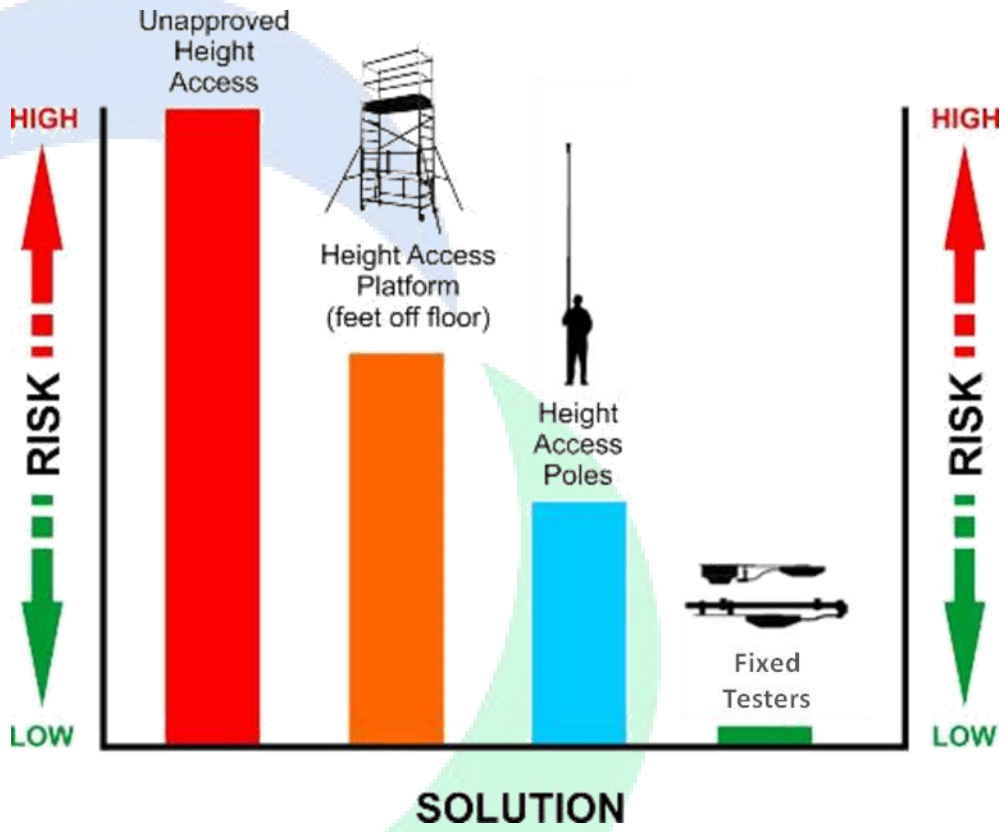
Comparing Risks

Height access poles:

'Feet-on-the-ground' solution, reduces the risks associated with traditional platform height access equipment

Fixed testers:

Once installed, a fixed test solution **dramatically reduces** future operational risks over the life time of the fire detection system



Height Access Poles

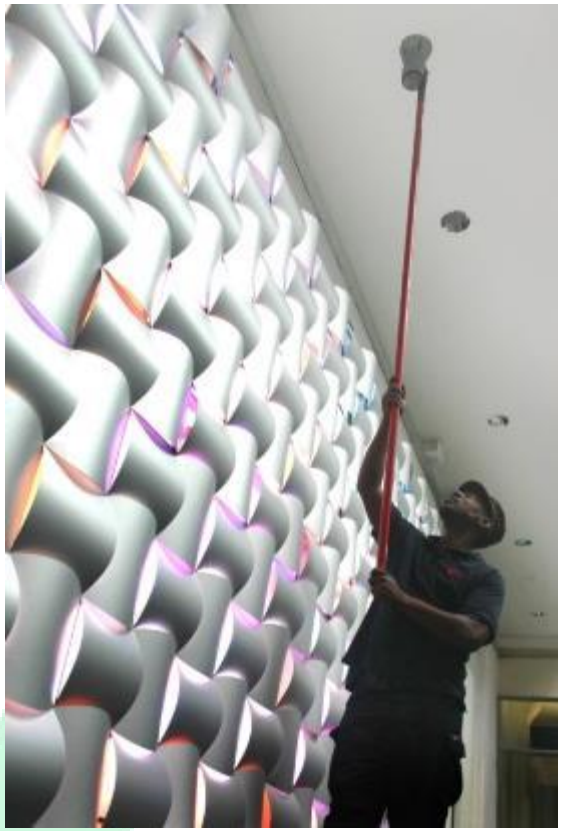
- Save time, cost, disruption and risk to safety that access platforms, ladders, scaffolding etc. represents
- Safe access to fire detectors installed at height
- Designed non-conductive, BUT not intended for use in high-voltage areas
- Available in two or four telescopic sections
- Allow reach up to **9m**
- Simple locking mechanism and easy to use

Maximum Working Height

9m reach (subject to risk assessment) requires:

- 1 x 6m reach telescopic pole
- 3 x 1m extension poles

No more than 3 extension poles to be used at one time



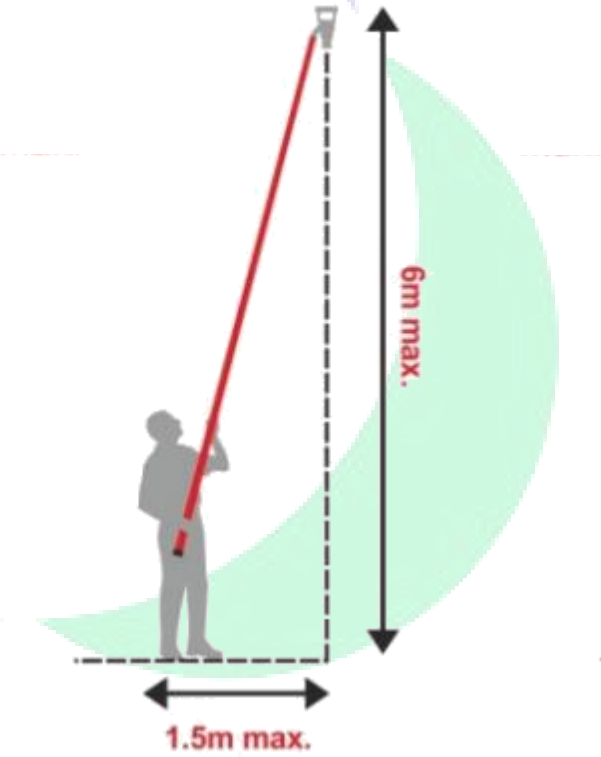
Recommended Distance (angle)

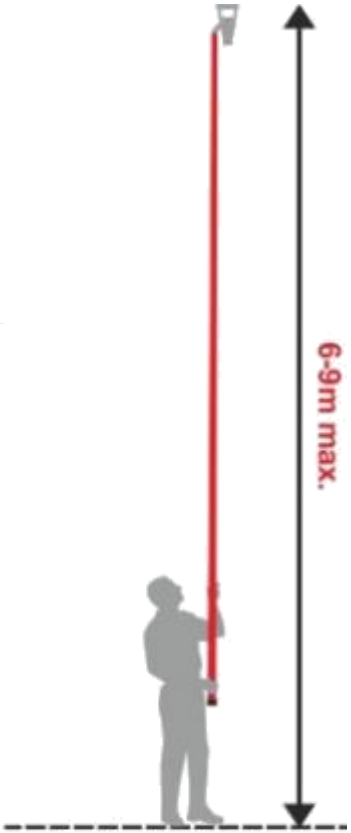
- **Up to 6m height access**

  Max working angle (distance < 1.50m)

- **6m to 9m height access**

  Use in the vertical or near vertical





Risk Assessment Prior to use of Poles

- An assessment of risk(s) must be carried out before each task
- Risk assessments of the working area must be carried out in accordance with site / company policy / procedure
- In the absence of company policy / procedure:

See HSE website for more info http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Dependent on outcome of risk assessment, working environment, site or company policies consider:

- Gloves
- Protective footwear
- Hi-Viz
- Eye protection
- Hard hat

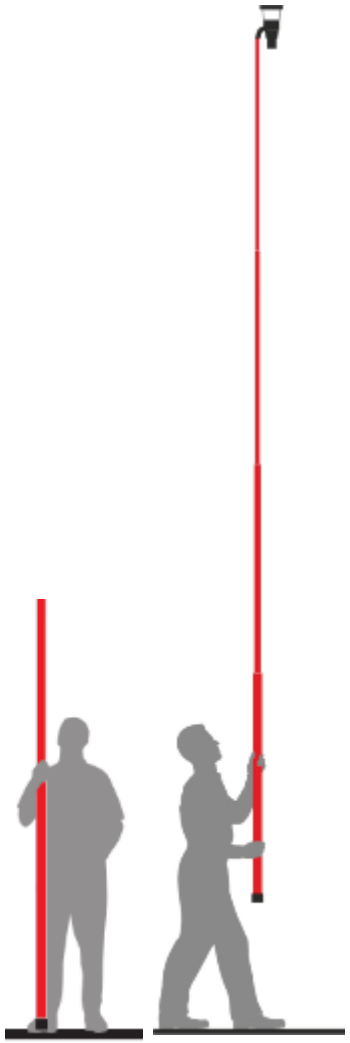
Examples of PPE Usage

- Hi-Viz jackets
  - Risk of not being seen
  - Company policy, environment or site requirement
- Hard hat
  - Risk of falling objects
- Gloves
  - Grip and protection of hands
- Eye protection
  - From dust, dirt or debris
- Protective footwear
  - Company policy, environment or site requirement
- Cordoning off the working area
  - Populated areas

As well as any other appropriate protection and signage for the operator and bystanders

Avoid Strain and Injury

- Carry out a Risk Assessment
- Use appropriate pole for the task
- Take care not to over-reach or over-stretch
- Do not use Solo poles at angles greater than specified
- Stand with one foot half a stride ahead of the other to increase balance
- When necessary share testing workload
- Alternate using the pole between the left and right hand side of the body
- Take regular breaks
- If possible rest the pole foot on the floor
- Do not use poles if unwell, under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Do not walk with extended poles
- It is only safe to use Solo poles when the operators feet are on the floor or from an approved access platform

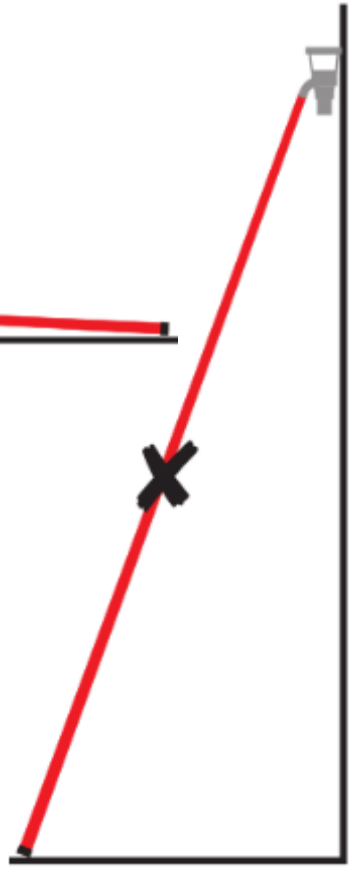


Safe Working Environment

- Under the current Health and Safety at Work Act employees have general legal duties to take reasonable care of themselves and others who may be affected by their actions

- **Do not** create trip hazards by leaving equipment unattended on the floor

- **Do not** leave poles unattended and extended when not in use



In the case of any incident or injury at work – you should follow your company clients / site reporting procedure. General guidance can be found at http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/

Raising a Telescopic Pole

1. Place pole foot on floor

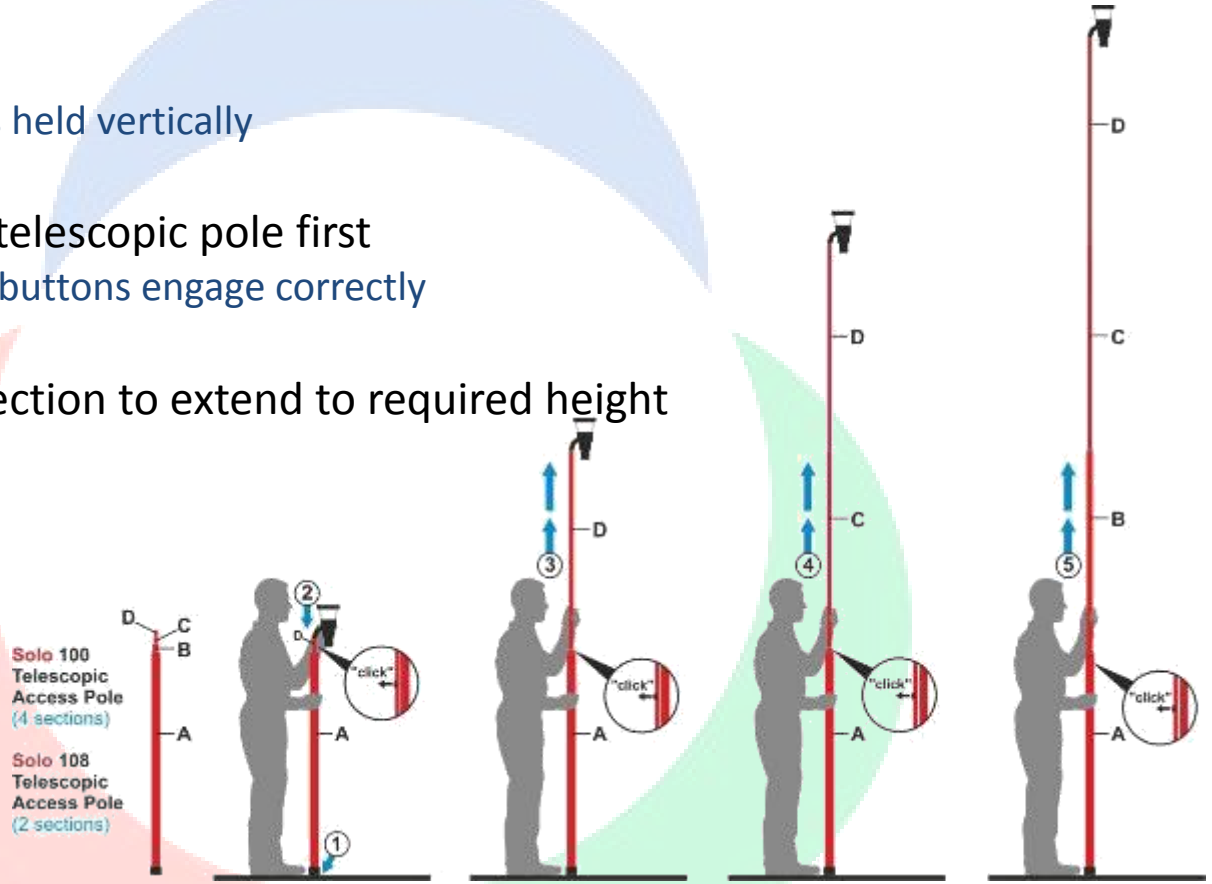
2. Attach test tool first

- Always raise poles held vertically

3. Extend top section of telescopic pole first

- Make sure locking buttons engage correctly

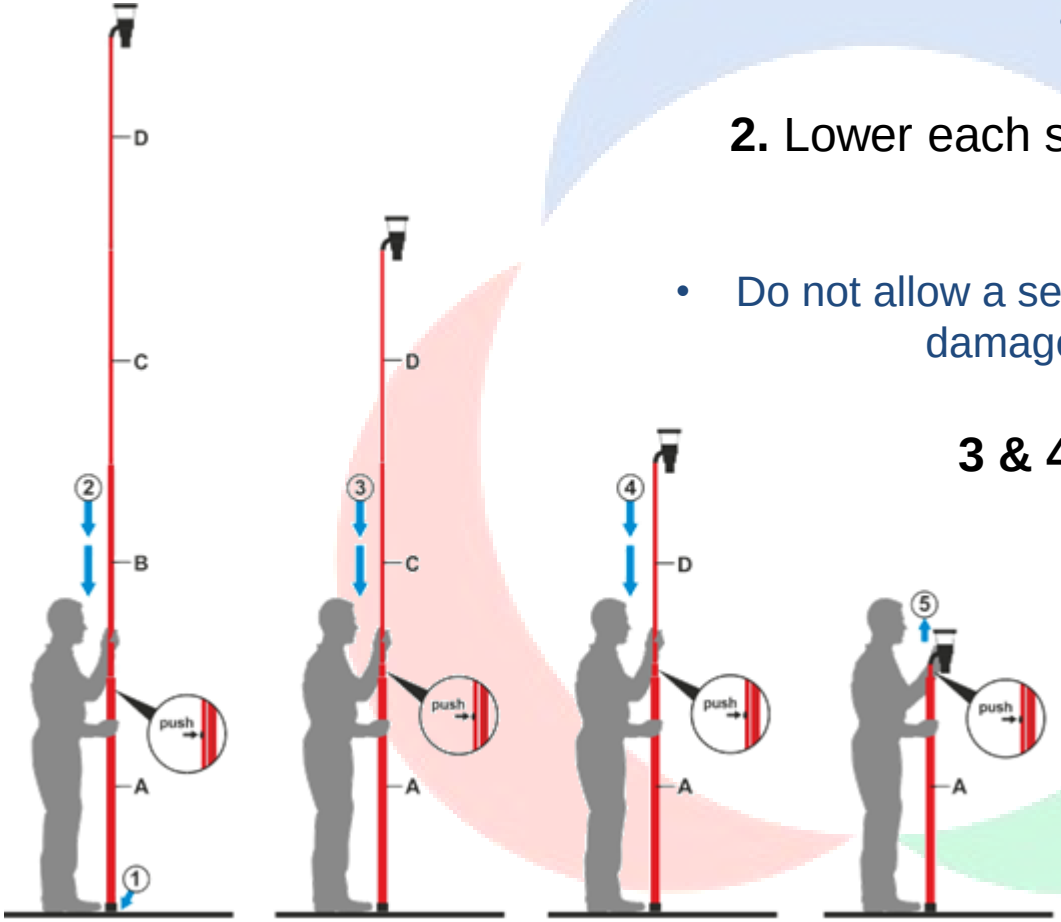
4 & 5. Repeat for each section to extend to required height



Note: 1) Never raise the pole foot more than 1.2m above operators feet

2) These instructions apply to Solo brand poles only

Lowering a Telescopic Pole



1. Place pole foot on floor

- Always lower poles held vertically

2. Lower each section at a time in controlled way

- One hand to release button
- Other hand to lower the section
- Do not allow a section to drop unassisted as this could damage equipment or cause loss of balance

3 & 4. Repeat for each section of pole

5. Remove test tool

Adding Extension Pole(s)

1. Place first extension pole foot on floor
- Poles to be held vertically at all times.
- Ensure all locking buttons engage correctly

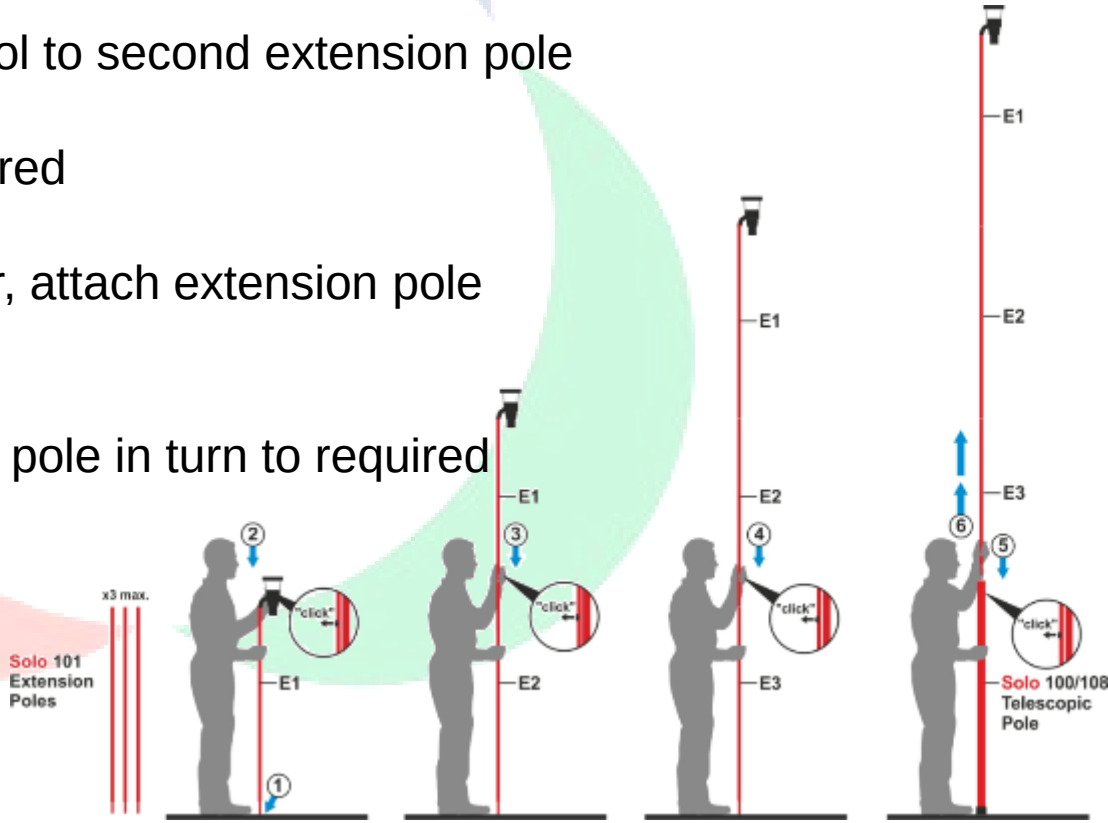
2. Attach test tool to first extension pole

3. Attach first extension and test tool to second extension pole

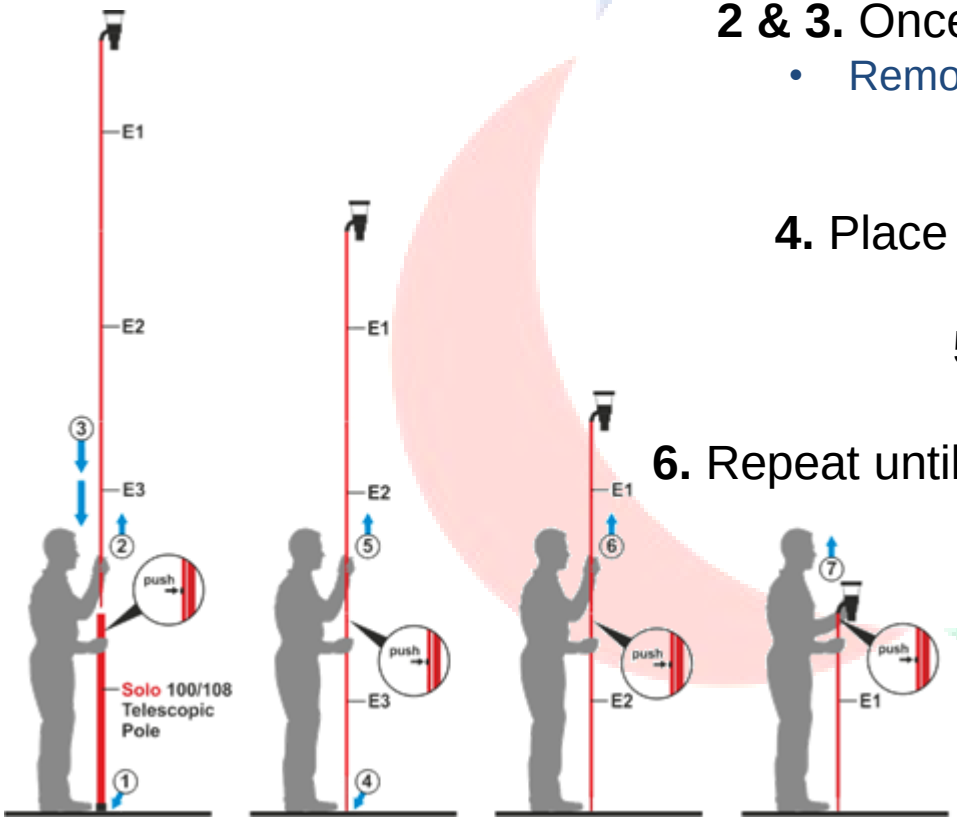
4. Repeat if third extension is required

5. With telescopic pole foot on floor, attach extension pole assembly

6. Raise each section of telescopic pole in turn to required height



Lowering a Telescopic Pole with Extension(s)



1. Place pole foot onto floor

- Lower Telescopic pole as previously covered
- Hold pole assembly vertically at all times

2 & 3. Once Telescopic pole is completely retracted

- Remove the extension pole assembly with test tool
- Place telescopic pole to one side

4. Place extension pole assembly foot on to floor

5. Remove the lower extension pole first

6. Repeat until all extension poles have been removed

7. Remove test tool

Other Height Access Solutions

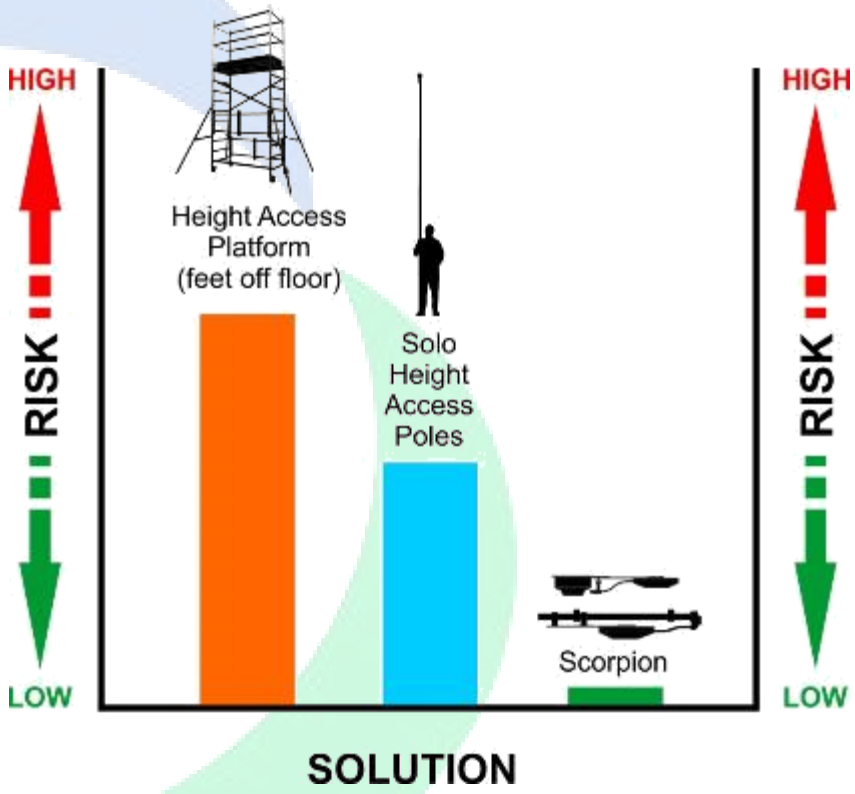
Higher Risk:

- Elevated work platforms
- Cherry pickers, boom lift, platforms, ladders etc.

Low Risk:

Scorpion the functional test solution for hard-to-access:

- Point type smoke detectors
- Aspirating Smoke Detection (ASD) Systems



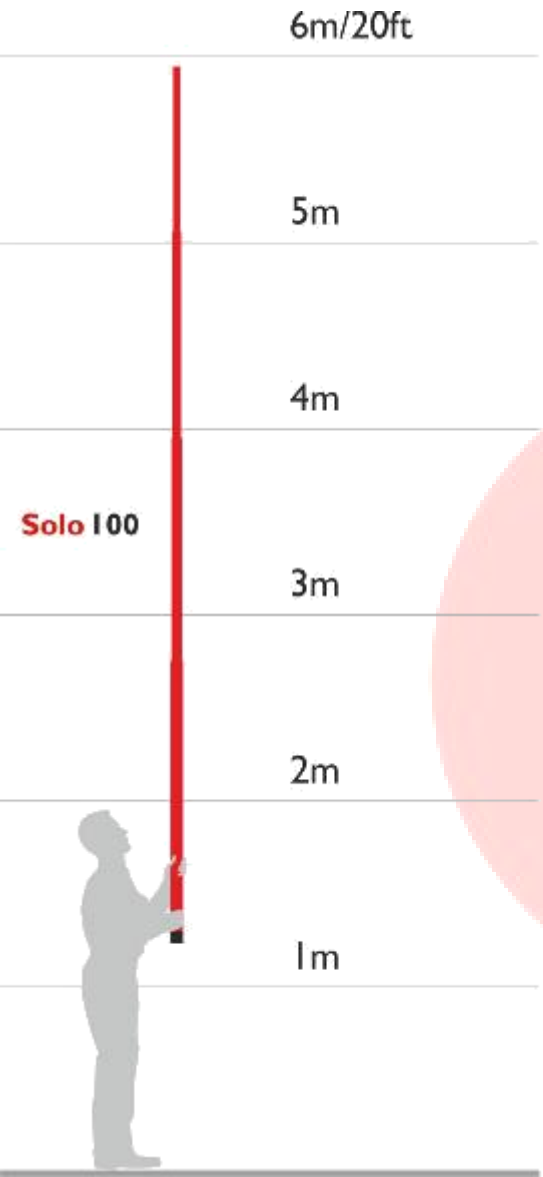
Video: Testing Hard-to-access smoke detectors

A brief introduction into how hard-to-access detectors can be easily tested

The following video has sound

Please watch video below

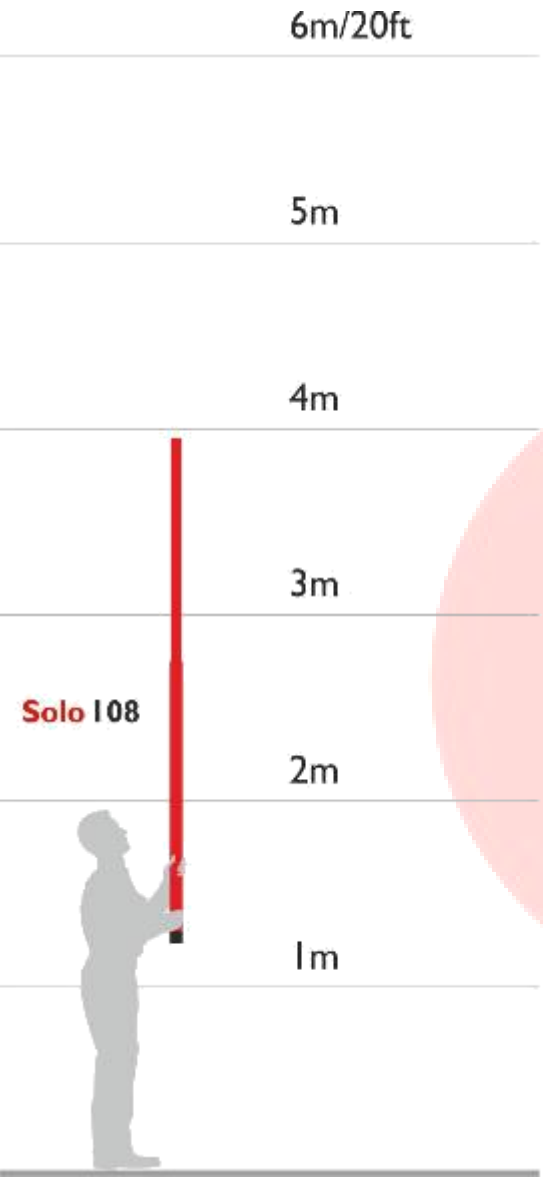
Solo100 4-Section Telescopic Pole



key Features:

- Retracted length = **1.26m**
- Extends to **4.48m**
- Max reach = **6.0m** (dependent on operator height)
- Operating weight (with Testifire 1000) = **2.83kg**

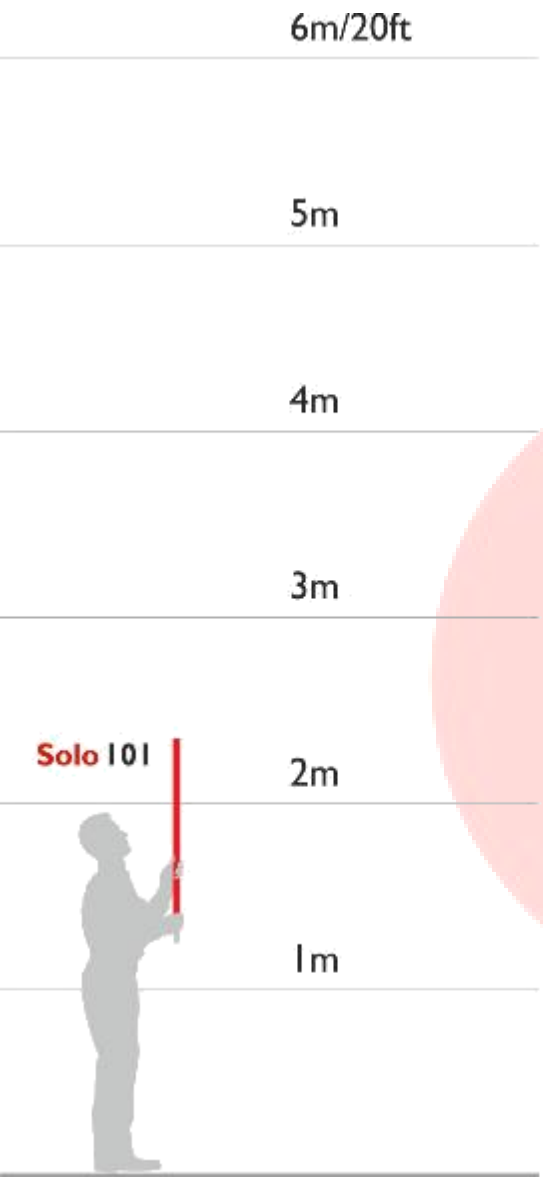
Solo108 2-Section Telescopic Pole



Key Features:

- Length = **1.27m**
- Extends to **2.20m**
- Max reach = **3.70m** (dependent on operator height)
- Operating weight (with Testifire 1000) = **1.83kg**

Solo101 Extension Pole



Key Features:

- Length = **1.13m**
- Reach = **2.65m**

High Voltage Areas

- Solo poles are designed non-conductive
- Not specified for use in high voltage areas
- Always carry out a risk assessment

Looking After Height Access Poles

Take care of your kit

- Return poles to bag when not in use
- Do not modify or attempt repair

Cleaning

- Keep poles clean
- Wipe clean with (water) damp cloth
- Do not use detergents
- Keep grit and dirt away from pole buttons

Inspection of Height Access Poles

Always inspect before and after use for damage and wear

Pay particular attention to:

- Tool end of pole – look for splits
- Pole foot – look for cracks
- Locking buttons – make sure buttons engage correctly
- Rubber foot – replace if missing
- Don't forget to inspect that the test tool is also secure and not damaged

Do not use a pole if they been modified in anyway

- i.e. holes for joss sticks etc.

Refer to your company policy regarding inspection of height access equipment.

- PUWER Regulation 6 requires that equipment is inspected at suitable intervals, and the inspection is recorded.
  - For further information - Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) – http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-equipment-machinery/puwer.htm

Service and Repair of Solo Poles

- Damaged poles cannot be repaired
- Field replaceable spares are available - including Telescopic pole feet

Do not attempt to repair or modify Solo poles

Solo Poles - End of Life Statement

End of life statement:

- Dispose of in compliance with local regulations (UK – municipal or industrial landfill)
- Classified as non-hazardous waste

Caution: Do not burn, incinerate or cut into pieces - Dispose of as a whole

Training Complete – Now Test Your Knowledge

Thank you for taking the time to view the

Using Height Access Poles for Safe Testing Of Fire Detection Systems

presentation

There now follows an assessment

If you answer 12 or more out of 15 questions correctly, you will be awarded a certificate confirming your successful completion.

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