



## Infrastructure Projects

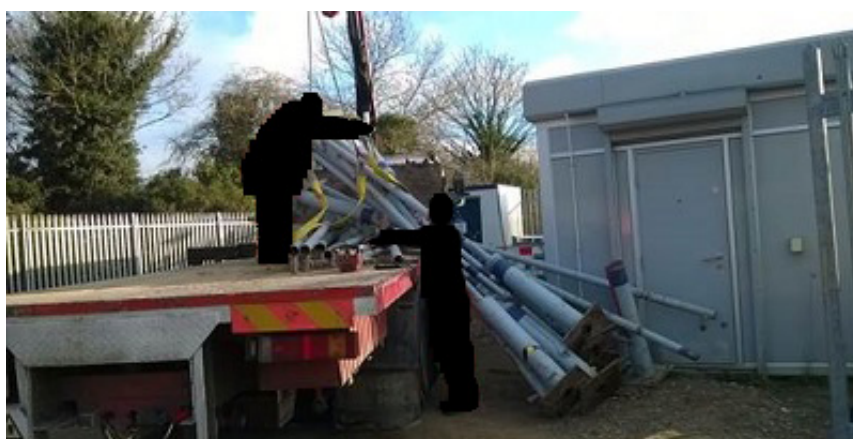
Southern

# Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update 20 January

*Everyone Home Safe Every Day*

### Lifting of lamp columns fails



A hiab lorry arrived at the Borough Green depot to collect lamp columns from the compound. The load was not slung correctly and as it was lifted, the lamp columns slipped and fell to the ground. Fortunately, no one was injured but the incident could have been much more serious.

#### **Remember...**

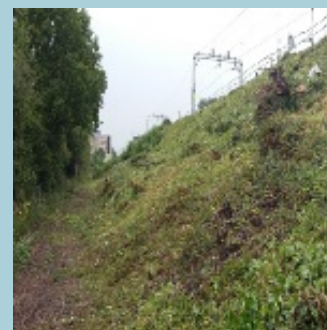
When undertaking lifting operations, always make sure a suitable lifting plan is in place and that the load is correctly secured before lifting.

### Good Practice: Drugs and Alcohol testing

### **Safety Update:** *reducing the risk of soil nails*

A solution which eliminates the need for the cutting and manual handling of soil nails has been developed following works at Ashdon Way Embankment.

**You can find more information on how this risk was [managed here](#).**

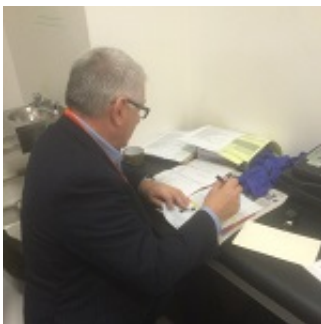


### **Crushed hand**

An operative had his hand pinched between two polystyrene blocks when they were being pushed together as part of the platform installation at Cambridge North Station. The individual attended hospital and his finger was placed in a splint.

#### **Lessons learnt...**

Always clearly communicate and confirm both equipment and



Wessex Capacity Alliance have agreed that all staff upon induction to the Alliance will undergo Drug and Alcohol testing as part of our HSEA induction, regardless of who their employer is or the role they are undertaking. This is to eliminate the possibility that someone may undertake work under the influence.

Throughout the past seven months that this action has been implemented, 739 Drug and Alcohol tests have been conducted. Four staff have failed for Cannabis abuse and two for Cocaine. Another failed for declared medication that was not consistent with the dosage. This was investigated and the employee stood down until the issue was resolved. A trend in the general construction industry indicated there was an issue regarding alcohol abuse; however, none of the tests have identified alcohol as an issue, despite tests being conducted at various times of the day.

The testing has prevented seven people from working under the influence of both prescribed over dosage and banned substances. If undetected, they could have had accidents themselves or caused accidents.

### **Think...**

- How frequently do you conduct unannounced testing?
- What percentage have you set as a target?
- What communications do you have with your staff on Drugs and Alcohol - is it adequately included in your induction and wellbeing programme?
- If you procure suppliers from the general construction industry, are they made aware of the more stringent requirements when working on the railway?

## **Fatal injury - are you safe around plant?**

Last Wednesday, an operative sustained fatal injuries whilst working on the Third Don Crossing (non railway project) in Aberdeen. Ian Walker was working alongside a 14t wheeled excavator that had been refuelling from a static, bunded 'Fuel Cube' tank when the accident occurred. Having completed refuelling, the machine operator slewed the cab 180 degrees to drive back to his workplace, resulting in Ian becoming trapped between the counterweight at the back of the machine and the fuel tank.

Investigations are currently under way; however, this is a timely reminder of the dangers associated with moving plant. You can [view the full bulletin here](#).

### **Remember...**



Never enter the agreed exclusion zone, unless directed to by the person in charge.

people are clear before manoeuvring materials into place.

### **Scour of bridge pier**

Following high rainfall, a train reported a dip in the track at Lamington Viaduct, Scotland on the West Coast Mainline. Examination of the bridge highlighted a missing 0.5 tonne sandstone block at the waterline with a two metre vertical crack in the pier. The pier was also found to have been undermined over a length of 21m and surveys revealed that the track had dropped by up to 150mm.

You can view the [full bulletin here](#).



### **Environmental best practice: battery powered circular saw**

Battery powered circular saws are being used on the Tottenham Court Road Station Upgrade Project to minimise noise levels and reduce the carbon footprint. This helped prevent complaints from neighbours during night shift works and also eliminates the risk of fuel spillages occurring.

You can find [more information here](#).

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