

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update 17 February

Everyone Home Safe Every Day

Near Miss could have been fatal

A COSS and an assistant Possession Support Staff (PSS) were due to carry out Possession Support Duties at New Cross Gate on behalf of Thameslink.

After receiving the correct briefing from the PICOP, both the COSS and PSS made their way to an access point at New Cross Station; however, the correct access point was New Cross Gate Station.

Upon receiving the call from PICOP, both of the staff proceeded onto the track. The assistant PSS looked up and saw a train approaching on the line they were walking on. The both immediately moved to a position of safety resulting in a Near Miss.



This incident is in addition to a Safety Flash report that was issued earlier this week where a COSS and two operatives working near Wolverhampton were granted access to an open line when the signaller thought he was communicating with a different COSS. As the team were returning to the access point to collect tools, a freight train came through the work site. [You can view the safety flash report here.](#)

Lessons learnt...

Are you in the correct location? Do you clearly communicate your location to others and have they understood you?

All trackside activities in the Southern Region must be undertaken in compliance with the Southern Shield Track Access and Isolation Protocol. The primary purpose of the Protocol is to get our people to always use the Safe System of Work with the lowest risk level.

You can find a [copy of The Southern Shield Charter here.](#)

Are you prepared for a medical emergency?

Last week at Balcombe, an operative was taken ill with a suspected heart attack. Fortunately, because of the quick reaction of his colleagues, paramedics were called and assistance arrived quickly; however, a poor phone signal in Balcombe could have prevented them from doing so.

Think...

Are you aware whether you have signal on your mobile phone?

The team handled this unexpected emergency in an extremely professional way; are you always prepared to take the right action in the event of a medical emergency?

New cleat design

A new cleat design will shortly be available following two serious incidents with the old cleat. Both incidents, one at Point Pleasant in 2014 and the other at Victoria last year, involved traditional cable cleats that use steel studding for the fixing of cables.

Although the current cleat is safe when used appropriately, the new

Tower Crane dismantling goes wrong



Whilst a mobile crane was being used to dismantle a tower crane at London Bridge Station, a load (hoist drum) became unstable and inverted. As a result, objects including two 2.5m scaffold tubes fell from the load. The scaffold tubes struck the newly installed canopy of Platform 10 and a train carriage berthed at Platform 11. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but it could have been much more serious. [Click on the image for full bulletin.](#)

Lessons Learnt.

- The centre of gravity should be understood and taken into account for all lifting operations



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

Another trip incident

Whilst accessing the line to undertake a patrol with the Track Maintenance team at Dover Priory, an operative turned his ankle whilst stepping onto ballast.

The operative was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with torn ligaments across the top of his left foot and is currently off work. [You can view the full bulletin here.](#)

Lessons learnt.

Always look where you are walking and take extra care when walking at locations where surface levels change.

Wearing gloves would have prevented this accident

A member of Works Delivery South East Route sustained a deep cut to his little finger whilst carrying out fencing works near Streatham South Junction.

The operative was using a steel bar to compact the concrete around the post when his hand caught a piece of corrugated iron sheet which was on the roof of a nearby shed. The operative was not wearing hand protection at the time of the accident and required four stitches to his finger. [Click here for full bulletin.](#)

Remember.

EN388 Cut Index 5 gloves should be issued to all site teams to

design does not include studding or require tools to install.



Bird nesting season

The busiest time for nesting birds is between 1 March and 31 July. During this period you should avoid clearance or destruction of any vegetation or structure which may be used as a breeding site and confirm absence if clearance is necessary. [You can find a toolbox talk here.](#)

Did you know?

One third of road traffic accidents involve someone who is at work.

A company has recently been fined £7500 for safety failings after the death of an employee. Philip Ledward, aged 62, was assisting a lorry driver when he was struck by a passing car and received fatal injuries.

HSE inspector Damian Corbett said: 'Workplace transport continues to be a major cause of fatal and serious injury. Estimates suggest that up to one-third of all road traffic accidents involve someone who is at work at the time.'

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improve cut resistance for general purpose gloves. This does not remove the requirement to risk assess appropriate PPE for specific tasks that require a more specialist glove.

page.

Contact us shield@networkrail.co.uk

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