Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

everyone home safe every day

Near Miss with Track Gang

Issued to:	**All Network Rail line managers and RISQS registered contractors**
Ref:	IP-Signalling 1-16
Date of issue:	11 April 16
Location:	South Wales Mainline 180m 14ch
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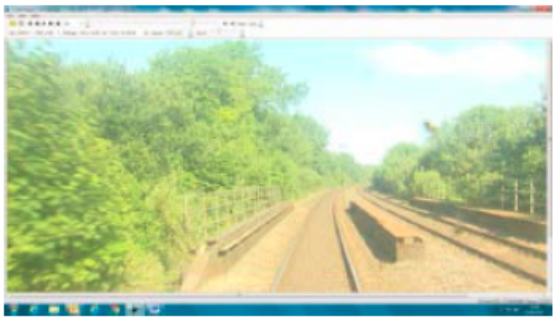

Overview

At approx. 13.10 on the 08th April a gang of operatives were working undertaking surveys using COSS - Site Warden as their Safe System of Work.
For reasons currently unknown the gang decided to walk across a limited clearance structure with no refuges without amending their Safe System of Work.
As the Gang reached approx. halfway across the bridge (10 -12 Metres) a GWR High Speed Train in passenger service, approached them travelling at the line speed of 75 mph, as each became visible as the train rounded the bend, forcing both the gang and the driver to take evasive action.

The driver of the train sounded his horn & also applied a full emergency brake application of his train at the same time, bringing the train to a stand many hundreds of yards after passing the bridge.

Three of the gang chose to jump onto the structure and two of the gang chose to run from the structure and jump into the cess, with all operatives reaching a place that was safe as the train passed.

Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- When working, do you and your team always remain in a position of safety or always have a position of safety available and accessible?
- Is your Safe System of Work always appropriate for the duration of the task?
- Does the warning time allow sufficient time to reach the position of safety?
- Does the COSS ask effective questions to ensure everyone in the gang understands the Safe system of work Briefing?
- Do I ever challenge a safe system of work if I feel it is inadequate?

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