



Infrastructure Projects Southern

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The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

18 May 2016

Knife accident whilst working alone

An operative was working alone in a storage container at Belvedere Yard in Kent when he sustained a deep cut to his wrist. The individual was cutting nylon rope with a sharp knife when he lost control and cut his left wrist with the knife. Fortunately, he was able to raise the attention of a nearby worker on the station platform who applied first aid, before he was taken to hospital. If his calls for help, the incident could have been much more serious.

The incident is currently under investigation; however, the contractor has a prohibition on the use of non-retractable cutting blades, as well as a policy on working alone.

Remember...

Remind yourself and others of your company's policies on non-retractable blades and working alone, and the risks associated with these.

You can find HSE guidance on reducing hand knife injuries here.

Test before you touch

Two COSSs turned up to site at Slade Green without the correct strapping equipment. One COSS had a Live Line Tester but not the correct gloves, while the second COSS wasn't aware he required a Live Line Tester, despite the SSOW stating an isolation would be required. Works were stopped and the COSSs were asked to get the appropriate equipment, resulting in a two hour delay.

Lessons learnt...



Always use the equipment that is fit for its intended purpose

You can find a copy of the Southern Shield DC Isolation strapping guide with equipment checklist here.



Click on the shield above to access our website

Mobile scaffold tower blown over

A four metre high mobile scaffold tower was blown over by high winds on the Thameslink programme whilst being stored. The tower struck an operative, causing a small cut to his ear, before striking him on the shoulder. You can find the [full bulletin here](#).

Lessons learnt...

- Storage should be considered during the planning stages of the works to determine locations of storage and identify any specific controls required
- Consider how you are made aware of changing weather conditions and the impact this may have on site



Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk

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Near misses – are you making safe decisions?

On 14 March, two track workers had a near miss with a train service. Initial investigation shows the SSOW pack did not cover the walking element to and from the site of work and an access point different to the access point that was being used. The team also were not using the safest means of crossing the track as there was a footbridge at the station. Additionally the COSS stated they assumed from previous experience, that all trains would stop at the station.



On 22 March, two track workers had a near miss whilst undertaking patrolling at Wanstead Park. The workers took two planned line blockages at Leytonstone High Road to walk through the viaducts due to poor sighting distance and only having one lookout. However, the operatives decided not to take their third planned line blockage, resulting in them walking under a bridge as a freight train approached. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)

Think...

- Do you make assumptions, for example on the train service?
- What would you do if your safe system of work does not cover your access and egress?
- Do you always use the safest option available in the work you do?
- What might stop you taking the safest option? Remember, if it's not safe, don't do it

Genie Z60 quarantined

A MEWP operator noticed a problem with the MEWP. In an attempt to reconfigure the MEWP it was taken out of rail mode. As the MEWP Operator lowered the rail wheels remotely from outside of the basket, the brakes failed and the MEWP made an uncontrolled movement.



Minor damage was sustained to the ballast box and to the basket and arm of the MEWP. Fortunately, nobody was injured as there was an exclusion zone in place. The exact cause of the incident is not yet known but there is cause to believe that the brake override switch had been operated which releases the machine brakes. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)

Immediate actions required...

All Genie Z60 Rail Mounted MEWPs are to be quarantined immediately and subjected to a fleet check to ensure that the emergency override switch is correctly isolated.

Other incidents this week

- Whilst jet washing platform fixtures at Margate Station, an RRV belonging to another site of work passed through the station and struck the acoustic screens. The COSS had allegedly not been notified of machine movements by Engineering Supervisor.
- While painting on a station platform at Whitstable, an Engineering train intending on passing through the station stopped short. It was felt that the scaffolding erected was too close to the edge of the platform.
- Heavy rain at Swanley Station caused damage to electrical equipment. This resulted in short circuit failures and circuits to station equipment to be closed down for two days. The canopy roof had been stripped and tarpaulin installed; however heavy rain then penetrated the tarpaulin.
- An operative poured water over a griddle in the welfare unit whilst cleaning it; however, it had not cooled down. The steam caused a minor burn to his right forearm.
- Whilst works were being carried out on Ashford to Canterbury using an RRV, a spill occurred from the clam shell bucket. The spillage was collected for disposal as hydrocarbon waste.



If you would like a colleague to receive Home Safe, please contact Daisy.Read@networkrail.co.uk