



# Infrastructure Projects Southern *Home Safe*

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

01 June 2016

## Short cut causes slip



A maintenance operative was carrying out inspections on a timber bridge when he decided to crossover the wet walk boards, rather than walk around the ballast. As he was walking across to the down road, he slipped on the timber and hit his left hip and knee on the running rail.

Due to the wet conditions, this accident could have been a lot more serious. Fortunately, the operative only sustained minor bruising. Slips, trips and falls remain the most common cause of incidents. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)

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

Always use the identified safe walkways and take extra care in wet weather conditions.

## Are your gloves suitable?

An operative working for Works Delivery was lifting hoses over a fence when he caught his palm on the fence. He suffered a bad laceration which required stitching at hospital.

It appears that the operative was wearing gloves, but they were not of a high anti cut category. The Southern Shield Charter mandates Cut 5 gloves in the Southern region; however, risk assessments should be conducted to determine whether additional crush, heat, vibration or chemical protection is required. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)

### **Lessons Learnt...**

- Personal protective equipment must be appropriate for the task being undertaken
- When working near/over fences, hazards due to barbs or sharp edges should be considered and suitable protection put in place



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## Ramadan – how does it affect safety on site?

Ramadan takes place 6 June and 4 July (+/- 1 day). As the holy Islamic month of Ramadan begins, Muslims will start a month of fasting between dawn and sunset, which at this time of year means avoiding food and drink for more than 16 hours each day.

This year, Ramadan falls during the longest days of the year, so it is important to understand how it affects individuals. Take the time to understand who in your team may be fasting and what this means for them, the team and their role. Adjustments may be required to ensure safety on site is not compromised.

[A toolbox talk is available on the Southern Shield website to help you have discussions with your team.](#)



Contact us: [shield@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:shield@networkrail.co.uk)

## Do you report faulty equipment?

An accident occurred at Appledore during the removal/installation of strail panels, resulting in an eye injury. The team were using an old style ratchet spanner with a new style tie rod; however, the new style ratchet does not locate properly into the end bracket of the tie rod.

The operative had come over to assist another operative with a problematic tie rod and attempted to manoeuvre the rod from the wrong position. He suffered a cut close to his eye, but fortunately, he was wearing safety glasses at the time of the incident which prevented a more serious injury.

During the investigation, it was identified that a number of teams had experienced the same issues with the new tie rods not accepting the ratchet fully, with slippage occurring frequently.

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



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

- Close Calls should be raised for potential hazards as soon as you identify them, including faulty equipment
- Always use the correct tools and equipment for the task

## Scrap rail could have been live

A team working in the South East reported a 50 meter length of scrap running rail lying on top of a 1000mm positive traction cable.



The scrap rail had been placed in the 6ft by Works Delivery during installation of new rail; however, an engineering train prevented the team from removing the scrap rail during later shifts. A decision was made to leave the scrap rail in place until a suitable possession was identified.

During inspection, the rail was found to be in direct contact with the 1000mm positive traction cable, creating the potential for someone to come into contact with the live rail. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)

### **Lessons Learnt...**

Consideration should be given for the storage of rails including proximity to cables, operational impact, potential slip, trips and falls and any movements which could occur whilst rail is stored.

## Hendy praises Dover site

Sir Peter Hendy visited our site at Dover recently.

After receiving a briefing, he commented that it was a 'very impressive safety briefing done with passion and commitment. A very tidy site given the space constraints and the real time nature of the job. Well Done.'

## How tidy is your site?

A Close Call was raised due to the general housekeeping of a site at Ash Vale. The site was untidy, the notice board had faded, making the information illegible, and the access to the fire point was also restricted.



Tidy sites can help to eliminate slips, trips and falls, our most common incidents.

Take this opportunity to assess your site conditions and welfare facilities. Check for obstructions to walking routes/fire points and that the information available is both current and legible.

[You can find a copy of the 'seven signs of a tidy site' poster on the Southern Shield website.](#)

## Environmental Toolbox Talks

A series of Environmental Toolbox Talks have been created and are now available on the [Southern Shield website.](#)

*If you would like a colleague to receive Home Safe, please contact [Daisy.Read@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Daisy.Read@networkrail.co.uk)*