



Infrastructure Projects Southern

Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

17 August 2016

Lessons Learned from RIDDOR

In a previous edition of *Home Safe* we reported that an operative suffered a fractured elbow after tripping over a crane mat during the bridge replacement works at Aldershot High Street. As a result of this injury the operative was signed off work for six weeks.



Background: A 750 tonne mobile land crane was employed to replace Aldershot High Street Bridge within a 52 hour possession. Crane mats were installed to spread the load from the outriggers so that the pavement, carriageway and buried services were protected.

Changes to the work environment: During the course of the works the crane supervisor switched off one of the tower floodlights as it was hindering the crane driver's visibility. As a result some of the crane mats were no longer visible and the operative tripped over one of them.

Lessons Learned...

- Always work within the recommended safe system of work.
- When a method of work on site or site conditions change, call a Time Out Take Five. Risk assess the changes and look at the safe system of work. Discuss any new potential hazards or changes as a team.
- Barriers must be installed to segregate matting from walking routes.



Practice makes perfect

The Southern Shield Best Practice Group is made up of members from Network Rail and its supply chain. They meet to discuss site safety and best practice. Three members of the group undertook site visits to Dover Sea Wall and Shoreham Viaduct. Here are some [highlights](#) from the visits.

Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk

Click on the shield above to access our website

Track Access Protocol

The new Southern Shield Track Access Protocol has been released and may be used with immediate effect. The Protocol will become mandatory in the Southern Region from 1 September 2016. If you would like a copy of the Protocol or require a RIPS Manager briefing contact: Shield@Networkrail.co.uk.

Good Calls

A Close Call was raised after a colleague visiting the Rail Systems works area in Waterloo saw a scaffolder working on the back of the lorry with no edge protection. The colleague approached the scaffolder and asked for the work to be stopped. Guidance for Working at Height can be found in the Southern Shield Charter.



Always use a safety harness when working at height, unless other protection is in place.

A Crane Operator inspected a spider crane and noticed that the safety lock indicator was not working. The Crane Operator contacted HIRD who sent out a repair operative.



Always use the equipment that is fit for its intended purpose

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Drug and Alcohol Testing

A COSS failed a random drug and alcohol test on site. The COSS is currently temporarily suspended from all Sentinel competencies' pending the outcome of the laboratory test results.



Never work or drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

In another incident

Five operatives tried to access their worksite after drinking at a pub. A for cause drug and alcohol test was arranged, but all of the operatives resigned before this could be carried out.

Lessons Learned...

Always comply with your organisation's drugs and alcohol policy. You must also remember to declare any prescription or over the counter medication that you are taking.

Both incidents are currently under investigation.

PPE Focus – Respiratory Protective Equipment

Where Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) is used as a means of controlling residual risk, it must be able to provide adequate protection for individual wearers. RPE will not protect the wearer if it leaks. A major cause of leaks is poor fit; tight fitting face pieces such as the type shown need to fit the wearer's face properly to be effective.



So remember to get your RPE fit tested by a trained and competent person. This will ensure that the equipment is suitable for your task.

Is your load secure?

Memories of a tragic accident came flooding back for one Senior Construction Manager after reading about the recent death of a member of the public as a result of a generator falling off of a lorry.

12 years ago he lost a close friend who was traveling on the M62 when a sheet of ply that was being carried on the back of a flatbed transit van, came adrift and went straight into her windscreen.

As a result the Wessex Construction Managers will be highlighting the risks of unsecure loads by emphasising the importance of tying down and securing tools, plant and materials whilst transporting them from the yard to site.

For further information contact: shield@networkrail.co.uk.



In other news

Heat Stress

With the summer months in full swing the Health and Safety Executive have published information about heat stress. For further information please visit the [HSE website](#).

Wasp Sting

Vegetation work was being carried out on an embankment and a wasp nest was disturbed. One member of team was stung. He was given first aid and was declared fit for work after a short rest break.

Remember...

- Be vigilant when working around vegetation and other places where wasps and bees might be nesting.
- Wasp and bee stings can be very serious for those who suffer from an allergic reaction. Those who are allergic must receive immediate medical attention.

Safety Alert

A team member working at Tonbridge received irritation to his arm and a burn on his neck whilst changing sleepers. Further information can be found in the [incident report](#).

Tidy Sites

A train struck a pile of timbers which had been placed in the six foot. As a result of this the train lost its Shoe Gear. The timbers had been used to create temporary RRV access and were left unsecured. Further information and lessons learned can be found in the [incident report](#).

Minor Injury

An operative trapped his right hand little finger whilst drilling a hole. First Aid was given. An investigation is underway.