

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Serious hand injuries during project works

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

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Location: Moreton, Gloucestershire

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Overview

There have been a number of recent accidents resulting in significant hand injuries.

On the morning of Sunday 24 July a linesman employed by Network Rail OCR was installing a 2.8m long stove pipe through a wrap-around bracket on the Western Route.

It is believed that the stove pipe moved as the linesman reached in to install a bolt, pulling their gloved right hand into the gap between the pipe and the bracket.

The tip of the linesman's right index finger was torn off and surgeons were not able to reattach it.

A further two hand injuries have occurred on electrification project works over the preceding weeks.

A recent [Safety Bulletin](#) discussed an accident on during June when their hand became trapped between lifting chains and the load resulting in an amputation of part of a finger.

And last period an operative removing concrete cable troughing units from site trapped their finger during a two person lifting operation, requiring hospital treatment for a severed fingertip.

Discussion Points

While the investigation is ongoing please discuss the following with your team:

- When planning work, how do you make sure the risks from trapping and amputation are identified and eliminated or suitably reduced?
- What can you do to ensure that your hands and those of your colleagues are kept clear of trapping points?
- What are the different things that need to be considered when it comes to hand safety, such as glove selection, tool use and handling aids?
- Do you perform tasks that could be undertaken more safely with a tool rather than your hands? How can you make those responsible for planning the task aware of this?

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