



Infrastructure Projects Southern

Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

12 October 2016

Finger trapped in van – the underlying cause

Last week we reported that a driver was collecting tools from site at Queenstown Road when he trapped one of his fingers in the drop-side gate of a vehicle.



Initial investigations suggest that there was poor coordination and communication between the two operatives when closing the flatbed sides. The tools had not been loaded correctly into the van, which had led to this becoming a two person operation.

Remember...

Always ensure loads are securely and correctly loaded onto vehicles. If the task requires more than one person, always communicate clearly before moving loads or equipment to ensure hands and fingers are out of the way.

Would you report unsuitable PPE?

A contractor was burning out sheared bolts on a bridge structure in South Yorkshire when molten metal burnt through the palm of their leather gauntlet. As a result, they suffered minor burns to their forearm and wrist.

The leather gauntlet being worn was the Warrior Red Split Leather Welding Gauntlet (0111WRSC).

Personal Protective Equipment should be the last line of defence against harm. All PPE must be CE marked and made to relevant standards. [You can view the full bulletin here.](#)



Remember...

If PPE or equipment is not fit for purpose, or you suspect it not to be genuine, report it.

You can find a guide to the PPE required in IP Southern on the Southern Shield website.



Click on the shield above to access our website

Electrical incident update

We recently reported that whilst installing Vortok fencing, a short circuit occurred when a shovel came into contact with a running rail and conductor rail. He had no apparent injuries at the time, but attended hospital as a precaution.

Update...

The following day, the operative admitted himself to A&E complaining of numbness in his right hand, fingers and lower forearm. He was detained in hospital for four days for the purposes of observation and tests. This has now been reported as a 7+ day RIDDOR event and is under investigation.

Aggressive behaviour

A staff altercation occurred on site which resulted in an eye injury and one individual being taken to hospital for treatment. A fair culture investigation has since been carried out.

All four individuals involved in the incident no longer work on the project.

Remember...

Aggressive behaviour is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Shared learning – Landslide at Harbury Cutting

Following a landslide at Harbury Cutting earlier this year, the following shared learning has been released. The learning states that the slope failure was caused by excavations taking place to install drainage trenches and reduce the slope angle.

The slope stability analysis did not adequately take into account the history of failure in the cutting and the presence of low strength layers caused by previous cutting failures and geological features. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)



Lessons learnt...

For large, complex earthworks or earthworks with a history of ground movement there is a need to carry out sufficient site research, investigation and monitoring to meet the design and investigation requirements of Eurocode Geotechnical Category 3 (BS EN 1997-1).

Assurance should be more intrusive where there is greater project complexity or a history of ground movement.

Incorrect equipment causes injury to eye

A member of the Dover Track Team was struck in the face by flying debris whilst removing pandrol clips. The individual was using a keying hammer to remove the clips, as opposed to a panpuller, causing a piece of ballast to fly up and hit him in the eye.



As a result, he suffered inflammation to his eye and had to attend hospital as a precaution. Fortunately, the operative was wearing safety glasses which prevented it being a more serious injury. [You can find the full bulletin here.](#)

For this particular activity, a keying hammer should only be used as a last resort when removing pandrol clips and if used, should be undertaken in a controlled manner.

Remember...



Always use the equipment that is fit for its intended purpose

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

Leading the way with Mental Health

World Mental Health Day was celebrated this week and Osborne have recently firmed up their commitment to the cause by signing up to Mind's Mental Health Wellbeing Index.

This makes a long term commitment to supporting the mental wellbeing of their employees and should help them find out more about the effectiveness of the policies, procedures and initiatives they have in place.

OSBORNE

Cable incident

Whilst connecting up a power cable to the heating elements in overlay panels, the power cable was observed to smoulder. The incident is under investigation.

Is your site lighting sufficient?

With Winter approaching and light conditions deteriorating, it was identified that there was insufficient lighting at Wrecclesham when the team arrived for the morning shift. Night time security has now been briefed to ensure lighting is turned on ahead of the morning shift.

Think...

Is your current site lighting sufficient for the changing weather and light conditions?

Don't forget...

There is a wealth of information and useful Toolbox Talks on the [Southern Shield website](#).

If there is an issue you would like us to cover, get in touch with your suggestion at:

Shield@networkrail.co.uk