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The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

28 September 2016

Electrical flash



Whilst erecting Vortok fencing at Tunbridge Wells, an insulated shovel caused a short circuit between the conductor rail and running rail. This resulted in an electrical flash that burnt an operative's trouser leg.

The operative was taken to hospital as a precaution and after being examined was discharged. The incident is currently under investigation.

Finger trapped in grab claw

A banksman at Waterloo International Terminal was assisting the loading of scrap metal into a skidsteer bucket. After the grab claw was closed a piece of metal began to slide out of the bucket and the banksman reached out to prevent the metal from falling.

As he did so, the piece of metal trapped one of his fingertips, cutting a piece of the fingertip off. The individual was wearing cut 5 gloves at the time of the accident. First aid was given on site before attending hospital.

Good first aid provision on site and a quick response reduced the severity of this injury, as the team knew what to do and were able to get the injured person to hospital within 10 minutes of the accident.



Immediate lessons learnt...

- Never place your hand near a trapping hazard and if materials slide out of a grab claw, do not attempt to stop them.
- Always make sure you are know where your nearest A&E department is and who the designated first aiders are on site.



Click on the shield above to access our website

Beware of wasps

An operative was attacked by wasps on site at Erith Station. He left site and was given medication, returning to work on the same shift. This is another in a series of wasp stings that have been experienced recently.

Remember...

First aid risk assessments need to consider this hazard. Individuals that are susceptible to an adverse reaction to a sting should have their own medication with them and make supervisors/first aiders aware.

Operational Close Call

A Close Call was raised at Fulwell by a Construction Manager when an excavator was observed working without its slew restrictor in place. This was not in accordance with the ALO plan. Works were taking place behind a blue netlon fence set out three metres back from the track.

After seeking guidance from the Health and Safety Manager, this has now since been raised as an Operational Close Call. The incident is currently under investigation.

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Use of brush cutters with metal blades



A Safety Advice notice was issued by Network Rail regarding the use of brush cutters fitted with metal blades for vegetation clearance.

Following three incidents since July this year, it has been advised that the use of metal blades on brush cutters for de-vegetation works shall ONLY be permitted when specific control measures have been put in place.

You can find out more information here.

Vehicle collision with barrier

A lorry driver was on site at Queenstown Road delivering items required for the works taking place that night. Whilst leaving site, the vehicle then collided with a traffic barrier, dislodging it.

Remember...

- Ensure effective traffic management is in place including arrangements for dealing with delayed deliveries.
- Ensure that vehicle drivers are correctly briefed on the arrangements for your site on arrival.
- Ensure when you are organising deliveries that all relevant employees have been informed.



Safety Flash: Equipment not isolated

A Safety Flash was issued after an installer working at Bracknell sub-station found that the bus bar he was about to work on was still live.

In the event, no injuries were sustained because the installer followed his electrical training and the Network Rail Lifesaving Rules by carrying out a 'test before touch'.

The incident is under investigation but more details and the initial learning can be found in the [Osborne 'STOP Think Moment'](#) here.



Never assume equipment is isolated
– always test before touch.



Many thanks to Osborne for sharing details of this incident and the actions they are taking.

A neat solution for storing scaffolding

Scaffolders have designed a method of storing and transporting scaffold tubes as an alternative to stillage's.



Sharing best practice

To save on water use during diamond drilling, a Golz Air Slurryfox was used on site at Waterloo International Terminal.

This is a portable, easy to use, air powered filter press which separates water and solids so the water can be reused over again.

This equipment has significantly reduced potable water demand as 450 – 600 litres of water can be recycled per hour and eliminates any issues with water run-off from conventional methods.

When completed, any waste water must be disposed of correctly under a trade effluent licence from the Water Authority.

For further information, please contact the Wessex Capacity Alliance Environment Manager.



If you would like a colleague to receive Home Safe, please contact:
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