



Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

09 November 2016

Too many hand injuries

An operative was loading troughs onto a track trolley on the Gospel Oak to Barking project. He had placed a trough on the trolley and was arranging it to fit tightly against the previous trough. Another member of the team turned around to load a trough lid onto the trolley, expecting the operative to move. They had not realised that the operative's hands were still on the trolley and as the lid was released, it caught the end of his finger.

First Aid was immediately administered by a member of the team, who discovered part of the operative's finger was still in the glove. The operative attended hospital where they confirmed he would require an operation to remove the tip of his finger.

In a second injury, an operative was connecting a mobile elevated working platform (MEWP) trailer to a MEWP when it dropped, trapping his hand. His little finger was broken as a result.

Did you know?

41% of all injuries in IP Southern are hand injuries. Would this be a good time to review your manual handling activities?

Slip, trip, cut finger

An operative was carrying out vegetation clearance using a petrol hedge trimmer at the bottom of Chatham embankment. Whilst repositioning his stance, the operative stepped into a hole hidden by vegetation, causing him to fall forward. He reached out to steady himself and as he did so, his left hand brushed against the blade of the hedge trimmer.

The operative sustained a cut on tip of his ring finger and was given first aid on site. He attended hospital where the wound was cleaned and stitched, before returning to work.

Remember...

Take extra care with underfoot conditions and hidden hazards, particularly when working with machinery.



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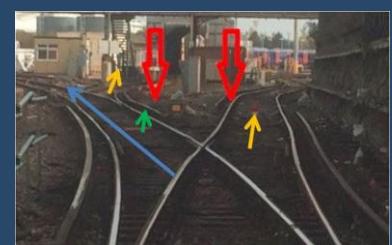
Live line testing prevents potential incident

A planned survey was undertaken at Fratton station under a possession. The COSS for the group had been briefed by the ES that all lines were dead. However, he decided to undertake live line checks and a live conductor rail was identified within the worksite. Thanks to the vigilance of the COSS, a potentially dangerous situation was managed and risks mitigated.

Remember...

When works are planned adjacent to depots, sidings and cross-overs, please ensure that the risk of live lines is considered.

The red and green arrows below show the live conductor rails not isolated, with the blue arrow indicating the line under possession. The yellow arrows indicate the lines that are not under possession and not isolated.



Home Safe

Exposed blade knives

There have been a number of incidents over the years involving operatives being injured whilst using open bladed knives such as Stanley Knives. Earlier this year, a store man working alone lost two pints of blood when he accidentally cut into his hand and severed an artery. This could have had a tragic outcome had someone in an adjacent work site not intervened.



Some parts of the business have banned the use of fixed and manually retractable knives, whilst others rely on risk assessments to ensure the correct tool is used for the correct task. Recent site inspections have identified that fixed or manually retractable knives are currently in use across IP Southern.

However, there are now many much safer products available to cover both general purpose and more specific cutting activities. [You can find out more here.](#)

Think...

Can you eliminate the risk and reduce the use of hand knives from all or part of the task? Or do you specify the right knife for the task being undertaken?

[You can find a copy of the Health and Safety Executives guide to reducing hand knife injuries here.](#)

Access platform failure

A BoSS X3 powered access platform at Gatwick carried out an uncontrolled ascent to full height beneath a floor slab. Both standard controls and emergency controls failed, and the ascent continued. Once the cradle had reached full height the motor continued to run and began to overheat. The operative in the cradle had to crouch down to avoid impacting the ceiling, bracketry and pipes above. The motor could only be stopped when the supervisor pulled the fuse.



A technical investigation identified that it was due to a battery issue and that an identical failure had occurred in 2013.

Until the manufacturer has provided assurance that these platforms can be used safely, the following models are to be **withdrawn from use immediately; BoSS X2, BoSS X3 and BoSS X3X.**

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

Companies fined for fatal platform collapse

Three construction companies have been fined more than £1m after a worker died and two others were badly injured at a site in Putney when a temporary platform collapsed.

The investigation concluded that the temporary platforms were neither built to an agreed safe design, nor was the quality of the build checked by those in control of the site, even though they were crucial to the safety of workers on upper floors. [You can read the full article here.](#)

Think...

How do you ensure that temporary structures are safe and appropriate for the works being undertaken?



Sharing winter working best practice

BAM Nuttall have produced a winter working briefing to ensure that awareness of the risks associated with the winter months are recognised and mitigated against. [You can find a copy of the briefing here.](#)

Work site and Conductor rail isolation arrangements

A guide has been produced to remind those involved in planning of works or those with specific duties such as COSS, about the forms required to record work site and conductor rail isolation arrangements. [You can access the guide here.](#)