

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Near miss at Saxby on 05/12/16

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors
Ref: NRB 17/02
Date of issue: 19/01/2017
Location: GSM2, Saxby, Leicestershire
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2 seconds prior to train passing track workers

Overview

On Monday 5th December 2016 an eight man team consisting of a Network Rail SWL and seven subcontractors were digging out wet beds on the up main line near Saxby in Leicestershire. The SWL set up a work site taking Line Blocks on the Up and Down Main lines. When the Line Block had to be given up to allow the passage of a freight train on the Down line the team stood in the Up Cess. This was the agreed position of safety.

The SWL noticed the Kango had fouled the line and shouted to one of the work party to remove it from the 6ft. A Trackman stepped onto the track, picked up the Kango and stepped out again back into the position of Safety as a passenger train approached on the Up main around a curve at 90mph. As the train driver sounded his horn the trackman stepped off track and the train passed him within 2 seconds of the Trackman reaching a position of safety.

A Kango that had been used for the work was left in the 6ft on a high ballast shoulder and with the vibration caused by the passage of the freight train on the Down Main the tool rolled down the shoulder and came into contact with the 6ft rail of the Up Main line.

Discussion Points

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

- What is the minimum amount of time that you must be in a position of safety before any trains pass?
- How far from the running line should all lightweight tools, equipment and materials be placed irrespective of the line speed?
- How would you react if you heard a SWL/COSS ask someone to go into a dangerous situation?
- What non-technical skills should team leaders demonstrate to avoid a repeat of this incident?
- If you see something that could be a danger to trains on an open line what must you do?

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