

IMDM OUTER

Title: DC Electrical Flash-over: Apprentice Arc Eye.

Incident.

On 9th November 2016 at 0938 hrs on the Down Brighton at 36m 32ch (Havant) an NR Apprentice sustained a minor arc eye injury during an electrical flash-over event, when the metal prong of an approved and insulated fork came into contact with both a running rail and a live 750v d.c. conductor rail simultaneously.

The team were tasked with measured shovel packing. Whilst replenishing ballast in bays to fill empty beds between a running rail and live conductor rail one of the Apprentices had moved outside of the protection area provided by a conductor rail shield and inadvertently put the fork he was using between the two rails causing contact and the flash-over.

The injured Person was one of two Apprentices on attachment from the IP High Output Track Renewals to a Permanent Way Section. He was lent over adjacent to his colleague when the flash-over occurred. He suffered temporary blindness for 10 minutes, visited hospital and was discharged without further concern.



Lessons Learnt

1. Always have sufficient conductor rail shields on site and placed over the conductor rail to cover the work area.
2. Check everyone understands the limits of this work area.
3. All 'inexperienced' members of staff on a NETOPS worksite are subject to the New Starters Mentoring (Safety Passport scheme).
4. The Team Leader (this may be the COSS) shall appoint an experienced person as a Minder/ Buddy to accompany every passport holder at all times whilst lineside.

Reference Documentation

RCS No: NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA20
Working Adjacent to DC Electrified Rails Risk Level 1 - 3
NR/L3/MTC/SE0089 New Starter mentoring (Safety Passport Scheme).