



Infrastructure Projects Southern

Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

01 March 2017

No support at New Cross



As part of signalling and track works, an under track crossing (UTX) was required to be installed at New Cross station. An excavation was needed which passed under three tracks from the cess to the station platform.

A Project Engineer visited the site to check progress and noticed the sides of the trench were not supported and discussed this with the Site Supervisor. On a subsequent visit he saw two operatives in the trench with no supporting props and stopped the works. An investigation is currently underway.

Excavations must be supported to prevent trenches collapsing onto the operatives working in them.

Close Calls! See it, Fix it, Report it!

So...What is a Close Call?

A Close Call is an event (condition or behaviour) that has the potential to cause injury or damage.

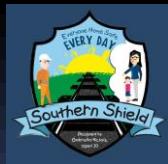
Great example of a Close Call!

Whilst on the way to site, an Engineer discovered a number of excavations on the public footway in Waterloo that had not been safeguarded to ensure that people didn't fall into them. The Engineer raised a Close Call; Chapter 8 barriers were placed around the excavations to segregate them from members of the public.



Do you prevent accidents by raising a Close Call?

Southern Shield have launched a new [Close Call poster](#) which reminds us all that if you see a hazard or something dangerous - See it, Fix it, Report it!



Click on the shield above to access our website

Platform collapse

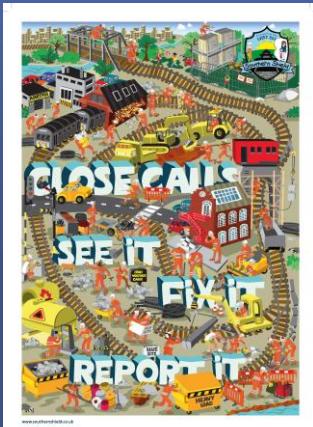
A decorators' merchants was fined after four workers fell more than three and a half metres while carrying a ventilation unit. You can read more about this story [here](#).

Laser beams

An electrician's mate suffered an injury to his right eye from the beam from a laser instrument. He started to experience blurred vision. He was given first aid and taken to hospital for further treatment.

Do you take extra care and brief site operatives when lasers are being used?

Southern Shield Close Call Poster



Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk

Tread carefully

Whilst working at a substation an operative was walking back to the parking area and stepped on a broken porcelain insulating pot. The pot pierced the inner side of his right dielectric boot and punctured his skin. The operative was taken to hospital.



Lesson Learnt... is your worksite clear of rubbish and other discarded equipment?

Have you seen the Southern Shield [tidy site poster](#)?

Spanner in the works

At the London Bridge Station a spanner fell from scaffolding into a public area from within an encapsulated scaffold. Although there were members of the public in the area at the time, no one was injured. A project security guard saw the spanner fall and put barriers around the area and reported the incident. All works were stopped and an investigation is currently underway.

Remember... an exclusion zones should be considered as part of the planning process when working in public areas.

Using your mobile when driving

In the UK, it is illegal to use a hand-held mobile phone or similar device while driving, or riding a motorcycle. The rules are the same if you're stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. Today, the penalties for being caught using a mobile device behind the wheel has increased. You could now be given six penalty points on your licence and a fine of £200. A [short film](#) on the Southern Shield website called Mobile Distraction shows the consequences of using your device while driving.



Remember... whilst driving for work or on Network Rail business you must always follow Network Rail's Lifesaving Rule regarding mobile phones use and electronic programmable devices:

Never use a hand-held or hands-free phone, or programme any other mobile device, while driving.

Using the right equipment

A Unilite head torch which had been left on charge following completion of a nightshift was found to be smouldering. An investigation revealed that the head torch was being charged with a non-standard micro USB cable. Further information can be found in the [Network Rail safety bulletin](#).



Remember... always use equipment that is fit for its intended purpose

In other news

Pedestrian hurt at Victoria

A member of the public was seriously injured during the high winds brought by storm Doris. They were hit by a section of metalwork panelling that became detached from the roof at the Victoria Station. Further information can be found [here](#).

Serious injury

An Engineering Supervisor tripped on a curb when entering the car park at Ardleigh Level Crossing and injured his elbow. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

Signals at Waterloo

An approach control to a signal in Waterloo was incorrectly removed during commissioning works. This meant that trains were able to pass over points faster than intended. This has been logged as an Operational Close Call and an investigation is currently underway.

Hand injury

An operative trapped his left thumb whilst knocking a holding down bolt in with a hammer. His thumb was trapped between handle of the hammer and the concrete plinth. As a result of the incident the operative's skin was broken. He received first aid treatment and returned to work.

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