



Infrastructure Projects Southern

# Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

14 June 2017

## Step up for Safety summer '17

Last week *Home Safe* reported that in the past three months there have been no reported lost time injuries in the southern region. There is a historical trend between periods 4 and 6 where accidents in the southern region increase; this is known as the **summer spike**. Southern Shield have released a [briefing pack](#) to take steps to tackle the challenges ahead and to make sure everyone goes home safe every day. The briefing pack focuses on the summer spike, high potential near miss events and hand/arm injuries.



EVERYONE HOME SAFE  
EVERY DAY

## Operational Close Call at Strood

An Operational Close Call was raised after a COSS who reported for work had no local knowledge of the area. When the COSS arrived to start the shift it became apparent that he had no local knowledge of the area (as required by the Southern Shield [Track Access Protocol](#)) and was also lacking in adequate experience (especially for working on DC third rail). The COSS had only became qualified a number of months before. Nevertheless, he had been named five days before as stated in the [Southern Shield Charter](#). As a result of his lack of local knowledge and inexperience the COSS was stopped from working. The incident is currently under investigation.



In another incident on the South East route; an Operational Close Call was raised, staff did not take the booked line blockages that they required to open hook switches. Further information about this incident can be found [here](#).

## Shared learning

Thameslink have published a series of shared learning documents covering recent incidents including: [a spanner fall from scaffolding](#), [arch penetration](#) and [debris falling into a public area](#). Their [2nd half year safety report](#) is also available. To read the lessons and the report click on the links above.



**Do you have safe access and walkways on your sites?**

A recent site visit highlighted a well-motivated and very safety conscious workforce. However, the state of the existing walkway and access conditions were poor. As a result, this was escalated to the Network Rail Route and the project team were tasked with improving the access conditions as soon as possible.



**Keeping our workforce safe**

- Before you start work on a new site, do you always check that the current access conditions and walkways are suitable and safe for the work you will be carrying out?
- If they are not, do you raise a Close Call and follow this up with the Network Rail project team to resolve?



# Home Safe

## Employee Assistance Programme



It's diabetes awareness week. This year's campaign focuses on 'Knowing diabetes, fighting diabetes'.

If you are managing diabetes and want some advice about health and wellbeing or require counselling you can speak to a health nurse through the Southern Shield Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The EAP is available to anyone who works in the IP Southern region. This includes our tier two and three supply chain including specialist plant operators and agency staff. It is a free, confidential counselling and information service available to you.

How to contact the Southern Shield EAP:

**0800 358 4569**

24/7 Confidential Service

Outside UK: +44 141 271 7540

For online support join vClub at [validium.com](http://validium.com)

Username: southernshield

Password: homesafe



## On the level



19 tonne bulk road plannings were being delivered to a site in a convoy of two lorries. As the convoy was going through Northumberland Park level crossing to enter the site one of the lorries hit one of the barriers as it closed under flashing warning lights. Subsequently the level crossing barrier became stuck between the second lorry's cab and its skip. It stopped on the level crossing and the signaller raised the barrier remotely and released it. An investigation is currently taking place.

**Remember...be prepared to stop at the crossing. Understand the warnings (lights, barriers, alarms). If the warnings activate, stop - unless it's unsafe to do so. Remain stationary until all the warnings stop.**

## Crossed wires

A local resident's telephone wire was snapped after plant being removed from site caught it. The site was being demobilised and a 13 tonne excavator was being removed from the site compound on a low loader. When exiting the site part of the plant caught and snapped a local overhead telephone line feeding a local resident's home.

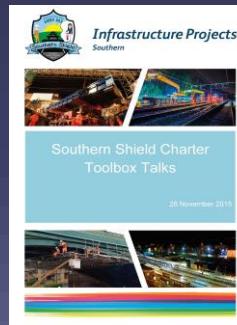
No one was injured in this incident and an investigation is currently underway.

**Lesson learned...plant being delivered or removed should be correctly stowed, including machine arms which should be fully lowered.**

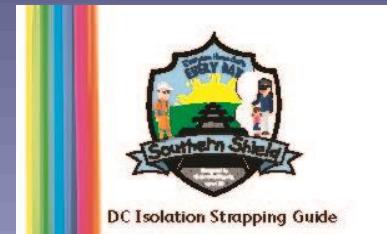


Click on the shield above to access our website

**Available on the Southern Shield website...**



**Southern Shield Toolbox Talks**



**DC Isolation Strapping Guide**



**Southern Shield PPE Guide**

**To download**

**Click on the picture and then select the download icon in your browser**