



Infrastructure Projects Southern

Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

23 August 2017

Working with concrete...a reminder



A Close Call was raised after two operatives were spotted levelling cement without wearing the correct PPE, including gloves or eye protection. The work was planned, the task was briefed and the correct items of PPE were issued to the operatives. They were challenged by the Ganger who had a safety conversation with them about the hazards of working with concrete.

On another site an operative was splashed in the eye with concrete during a concrete pump line wash out. The operative was wearing eye protection at the time, but these were knocked off during the incident. Eye wash was administered on site and the operative visited the local A&E department as a precaution to ensure there was no further or lasting injury. This incident is currently under investigation

Do you know of the hazards of working with concrete? Do you know what PPE you should wear when working with concrete? A toolbox talk is available on the [Southern Shield website](#).

Another hand injury while manual handling



Did you know that over half of all injuries are to the finger/thumb, hand or arm, commonly as a result of these areas being crushed or trapped whilst working with equipment or during manual handling activities?

Where we are designing, planning or undertaking works of this nature are we seeking to eliminate situations where trapping or crushing hazards could occur? Do we eliminate or reduce as far as practicable the need to undertake manual handling?

In a recent incident an operative was lifting a piece of concrete when it fell on his hand and scratched his skin. He was given first aid on site but advised to get a tetanus injection as a precaution.

In last week's edition of [Home Safe](#) we shared details of the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (MHOR). The regulations define manual handling as: *any transporting or supporting of a load (including the lifting, putting down, pushing, pulling, carrying or moving thereof) by hand or bodily force*. *The load can be an object, person or animal.*

On top

A Close Call was raised after a RRV operator got out of the cab and stood on the roof of the RRV and proceeded to use his mobile phone. The operator was challenged and asked to get down.

It has not been determined as to why the operator climbed onto the RRV.

Additionally, the fall distance would have likely to have been in excess of three metres which could have led to serious injury.

Environmental incident

A small amount of hydraulic oil spilled on site after the hose on a RRV burst. The spill kit on site only contained a boom kit and had no absorbent granules therefore sand was used instead to soak up the oil.

Do you inspect your safety equipment on site to check if they have the correct items in them?

Lesson learned... remember to check any plant (including hoses) for faults and loose connections prior to use and document these inspections. Ensure that the correct spill kits are available on site to deal with any accidental releases.

D&A testing



Never work or drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Two operatives failed random drug and alcohol tests at a site in Slade Green. Both tests were initially recorded as a non-negative, the works was stopped and both

samples were sent to a toxicology laboratory for further testing. One sample returned a positive result for cocaine and the other for cannabis.

Remember our Lifesaving Rules...Never work or drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Did you know?

Did you know that bats are a European protected species? And that all bat species, their breeding sites and resting places are fully protected by the law. You are breaking the law if you:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill bats
- Damage or destroy a breeding or resting place
- Obstruct access to their resting or sheltering place
- Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead bats, or parts of them
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection.



If found guilty of an offence against bats, possible penalties can include up to six months in prison or an unlimited fine. Activities that could affect bats include cutting down or removing branches from a mature tree, removing 'commuting habitats' or foraging areas.

Case study

On the 16 August the Station Manager at Frant station found a bat hanging from the chain link fence along the platform. After seeking advice the bat was placed into a cardboard box with air holes, with some water and paper towels. The local conservation group also advised that the bat should be taken to the local vet.

What should I do if I find a protected species on my site?

Stop work and contact your Environment Manager. If you are unable to contact them, try contacting a local conservation group for further advice.

A suite of environmental toolbox talks including those about [bats and other protected species](#) is available of the Southern Shield website.

Lessons learnt



Shared Lessons Learnt can now be found on the [Southern Shield website](#). This includes a new lesson on the Near Miss at Ascot when two track workers narrowly avoided being struck by a train. More shared learning will be added to the document over the coming weeks.

PPE the last line of defence

An operative was using a fast clip puller when the key slipped causing him to fall forward and hit his head on the side of the platform. The operative was wearing his hard hat at the time of the incident so no injury was sustained. However, as he fell backwards he hit his right leg on the track causing minor soreness.

Remember the [Southern Shield PPE guide](#) gives you details of the minimum PPE required in the southern region.

The Shield

The August 2017 edition of [The Shield](#) is now available on the Southern Shield website.



This edition features a number of environment and sustainability stories alongside a visit to the staff working at Battersea, Feel Safe to Ask at Redhill and 60 seconds with Craig Lightheart the Programme Manager for the introduction of Planned Delivery of Safe Work (PDSW) in the IP southern region. If you would like to receive copies of The Shield on your site email:

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