



Infrastructure Projects Southern

# Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

22 November 2017

## High risk Close Call



A Close Call was raised after a fully laden HIAB lorry drove over metal road surface plates and displaced them exposing a 1.5 metre deep pit of sludge and waste water. The lorry was being driven through a skip company's yard which led to an access point to Network Rail land. To get there the lorry had to cross over an area covered with steel road plates, the area was dirtied with mud and waste oils.

When the lorry crossed the plated area the rear wheels spun on one of the plates moving it and revealing the pit full of sludge and waste water. As a result of this incident the road plate was replaced; vehicles were diverted away from the plates and guided over them when this wasn't possible. Details of this hazard have been sent to the local Maintenance Delivery Unit and the property services team so that discussions to improve the access can be held.



In this instance had a Close Call not been raised a vehicle could slide into the pit or the dislodged plate could have moved further and hit someone while a vehicle was travelling over it.

**Remember...if you spot something unsafe see it! Fix it! Report it!**

## When lifting



A team was lifting and removing an empty cable drum. It was located on an A frame attachment and mounted on a rail trailer. The drum was being lifted using a strop and the weight taken from the spindle bar. As the drum was being lifted it slide through the hole of the drum, travelled through some bridge railings and fell to the ground in a public area. The spindle is believed to weigh around 40-50kg. This incident is currently under investigation.

**Remember...any equipment used for lifting, requires identification and routine checks for condition.**

### Service strike at Slade Green

Train depot staff noticed that there was no water supply the day after engineering works took place at Slade Green Substation.

Works were undertaken to install an under road crossing (URX) the next day the train depot staff reported that there was no water supply to part of the depot. When the stop cock was turned on water was found to be coming from the location of the URX.

Temporary arrangements to supply water to the depot have been made whilst the damaged water main is being repaired. The incident is currently under investigation.

### Road traffic collision

During a night shift an occupied works vehicle parked in Rye Town Centre was hit from the rear by a motorist. The driver got out of their car and then got back in and drove away.

The two operatives sitting in the vehicle at the time of the incident both reported back and neck pain but did not request any medical assistance.

**If you would like a colleague to receive Home Safe, please contact:**

**[shield@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:shield@networkrail.co.uk)**

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## Culture Step Up

This winter, Southern Shield Culture Step Up events are to be held on sites to address some of our key cultural issues

- Production vs safety
- Being able to speak up about safety concerns or challenge others.



Events are encouraged to be held from today until Friday 8 December or to be included as part of the 2018 Back to Work briefings held in January. If you would like to hold a Culture Step Up on your site the [event pack](#) can be found on the Southern Shield website. For more information and guidance please contact: [Mark Carter](#).

## Operational Close Call at Redhill



Following overnight engineering works concerns were raised about the stability of the track through platform 1. The track was inspected by the Mobile Operations Manager (MOM) and Track Maintenance Engineer (TME) who decided that the track was not fit for the passage of trains until remedial works were undertaken. As a result all services over the line were suspended and diverted via other platforms. Works to remedy the issues took place during the next night. A level three investigation has been initiated.

## Feel Safe to Ask and more



An initiative implemented to break down barriers now means that workers at BAM Nuttall will not only have their Feel Safe to Ask stickers on their safety helmets but now also have their names on them too. After completing the Feel Safe to Ask briefing at

Redhill a few members of the site teams suggested enhancing the initiative by including the names of all staff on their helmets to help facilitate the conversation. Some BAM sites had already adopted this and have said it improves the team ethos.

If you have any best practice from your site that you would like to share email: [shield@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:shield@networkrail.co.uk).

## Cold stress

Costain has produced a toolbox talk about cold stress. The talk details information about wind chill numbers, how our bodies react to cold and explains the symptoms of hypothermia among other material. The toolbox talk can be found [here](#).

## In other news...

### Stuck in the mud

At the end of the shift a team was moving a MEWP to its planned berthing position. During this activity one of its wheels became stuck in the ground in a position that damaged a road at the depot.

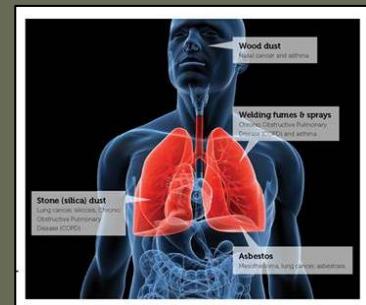
Despite efforts to free the MEWP, it was left in position over night, and retrieved during the following shift. The road was reopened to traffic as planned at the end of the following shift.

### Did you know?

Did you know that dust can be categorised into types?

**Inhalable dust** which is larger sized dust particles that you can generally see with the naked eye. These dusts reach the upper section of your lungs.

**Respirable dust** which is smaller sized dust particles that can be invisible to the naked eye. This gets trapped in the lower section of your lungs.



**Remember...risk assessments should be carried out for every task, to determine whether additional or task specific PPE is required, such as respiratory protection.**

If in doubt check the [Southern Shield PPE Guide](#).