



Infrastructure Projects Southern

Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

03 January 2018

Best Christmas safety performance since 2014 – but some minor injuries

In the southern region (Anglia, South East and Wessex), we successfully carried out work at 62 on-track and 12 off-track worksites over the Christmas and New Year period. Although we had a great safety performance, the following minor injuries were reported:

At Brighton Sub Station an individual caught his finger between two concrete troughing lids that were being replaced. He was sent to hospital and a small fracture was diagnosed but he was fit to return to work the next day.

At Repton Bridge a member of staff tripped over a power cable in a manhole without a lid. First aid was given on site at the time of the incident and the injured party was monitored on returning to work.

At Redhill a member of the track team twisted his ankle while walking on the ballast. He rested his ankle overnight and returned to work the next day.

During a cable pulling activity at Victoria PSU an operative reported a pain in his shoulder. No medical treatment was required.

Remember: historically we see more accidents between January and March than at other times of the year? All our sites and offices should stand down on their first day of work after the Christmas period and everyone must receive a briefing prior to resuming duties.

The Back to Work briefings including briefers notes can be found on the [Southern Shield website](#)



The biggest cause of fatalities

An HSE inspector said, "**work at height is still the biggest source of fatalities at workplaces in Britain**" after a concrete product supplier was found guilty at Coventry Magistrates' Court of having no systems in place for employees working at height. An employee suffered head injuries and a fractured arm when he lost his footing and fell approximately five metres to the floor through an uncovered concrete chute.

Close Call highlights the dangers on our infrastructure



A recent Close Call raised by one of our contractors at Streatham highlighted the dangers that can be encountered when working on our infrastructure. Although sights such as this can be all too familiar on the railway, it is important that we do not tolerate these hazards and wait until one of our team mates is injured. Always raise a Close Call.

Redhill irregularity

A possession irregularity occurred when a signalling cable was disconnected early which turned signals to green at Stoats Nest Junction. This was spotted by the signaller, who turned the signals back to danger so as to protect the possession site. The incident is under investigation.

Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk or go to www.southernshield.co.uk

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Stepped on a Live Conductor Rail



While carrying out recovery of surplus and redundant materials, a member of a work group stepped onto a live conductor rail on the Down Sussex Slow Line and received an electric shock. He was part of a group that had crossed an open line that they believed to be under possession and isolated,

to reach the access point. However, the access point was outside of the worksite and isolation limits with no safe walking route to it.

An investigation is underway by the Thameslink team. Although it is not suggested that these were factors in this incident, the following is the immediate learning:

- Briefings from the Engineering Supervisor to the COSS should be clear, detailed and concise
- COSSs should familiarise themselves with an area under possession and isolations, especially in multipart possessions
- All COSSs should carry out a Live Line Test witnessed by their workgroup.



Never assume equipment is isolated
— always test before touch.

Are your hoardings secure?

Site hoarding separating a public pavement from site offices was blown over during windy conditions. The 68m long x 2.25m high hoarding was a proprietary plastic water-filled Safesite GB2 barrier system. Fortunately there was no one near the hoarding when it fell. An investigation is underway by the Thameslink team to determine the cause but the following points should always be considered:



- Hoardings are temporary works and as such must be subject to design and appropriate design reviews should be undertaken
- Temporary works inspection regimes must be in place
- Any wind speed restrictions must be noted on any designs and form part of the communication to the site teams.

Are your hoardings and fences safe – especially in high winds?



Downloading the Charter

Did you know that a 'Lite' version of the Southern Shield Charter and all of the individual appendices can be downloaded from [the Southern Shield website](http://theSouthernShieldwebsite)?

Fractured finger during manual handling

A Pway staff member suffered a fractured finger when a bag of cement fell, from a sack he was lifting, onto his hand. The cement had solidified in the bag.



What could he have done differently?

- Take a Time Out Take Five to assess the risks before or during a task
- Make a visual inspection before and during the activity to ensure loads are stable and secure
- Always use the correct manual handling technique and assess the weight of the load prior to lifting
- Consider the type of gloves needed such as impact protection for heavy lifting.

Did you know about welfare facilities?

Did you know that temporary site welfare facilities must also comply with and applicable legislation however must also comply with Network Rail Standard NR/L3/INI/CP0036 - The Provision of Welfare Facilities?

The standard gives guidance on the facilities to be provided on sites based on the number of staff working and the planned duration of the works. The planned arrangements must also be recorded on the form in the standard (appendix B – Welfare Provision Form), which must be displayed on the site notice board for the duration of the works.

If the standard can't be complied with, suitable justification for the arrangements that are being provided must be recorded.

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