

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



Significant Accident

Issued to: South East Route
Ref: SMIS2310380
Date of Issue: July 16th, 2018
Location: Dartford
Contact: Emma Foster 07730 359 819



Overview

One of our colleagues suffered a severe facial injury.

On July 12th a Maintenance contractor team were tasked with clearing ballast from the foot of the rail to allow for a PLPR inspection. The Safe System of Work was open line with lookout protection.

At approximately 1030hrs, upon the approach of a train, the gang were called off and moved to a position of safety. As the train passed the IP was struck by a piece of ballast which broke his safety glasses and resulted in a large laceration above his right eye.

First Aid was administered on site and the IP was transmitted to hospital where he received eight stitches.

It is clear that the injury could have been significantly more serious had the IP not been wearing his safety glasses.

An internal investigation is currently underway, but it is likely that the incident was caused by the train's shoe gear hitting a high ballast profile.

Immediate Actions

- Please ensure that you have been issued with the correct eye protection for the task and that they are in good condition, and that they are **worn at all times** (if you are unsure **ASK** your Manager)
- Do not hesitate to **challenge** any individual who is not wearing their safety glasses (or full and correct PPE)
- Your **Safe Work Pack** must contain the task, location and operational risks and control measures. Ensure you are briefed on these prior to starting work
- When carrying out similar tasks please be reminded of the importance of maintaining a ballast profile which is **clear of the conductor rail and of the collector shoes**.
- Remember **Take 5 for safety!** Think about the risk before, during and at the end of the task

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