

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Needle Stick Injury

Issued to: **Western Route**

Ref: WNB1913

Date of issue: 16.04.19

Location: Trowbridge, Wiltshire

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Workforce Health Safety and
Environment Advisor



Overview

This morning (16.04.19) at 00:45 a Network Rail colleague whilst attending site and unlocking an access gate padlock, came into contact with a needle stick and received a puncture wound to the palm of their hand.

It appears the needle stick has been deliberately stuck to the back of the padlock. Police have been made aware of the incident and will be provided with the object (if safe to do so). Our colleague was accompanied to hospital where they are being supported. Checks are being completed at other access points in the area and all colleagues are asked to share this alert and be vigilante on this new risk.

In the event of contact with a discarded needle, it is advised the wound is allowed to gently bleed, ideally holding it under running water and seeking medical advice as soon as possible.

Always report the accident to Fault Control and arrange for removal of the needles by a competent person.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating this incident, please discuss the following with your teams:

Malicious incidents of this nature have unfortunately taken place before on our infrastructure.

- Are you and your colleagues aware of this type of risk and infection controls? (NR/GN/OHS/00150)
- Do you and your colleagues regularly check access areas and padlocks for sharps before opening?
- Are suitable gloves worn at all times to include when using padlocks?
- Any locations found to have padlock/s that have been tampered with in a similar way are to be reported immediately to Fault Control and the British Transport Police.
- Extra vigilance is required going forward as this can re-occur on any site at any time.

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of Safety Bulletins*

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