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Southern Region Safety Conversation

A stylized graphic of a rail track, consisting of a series of vertical bars connected by horizontal lines, rendered in a dark blue color.

Forever in our thoughts





We are still suffering from the shock of the tragedy, on the 3rd July, when our colleagues, Gareth Delbridge, 64, and Michael Lewis, 58, died after being struck by a train.

Gareth and Mike were extremely well respected and experienced members of the Port Talbot track team - together they gave over 84 years' service to the railway.

It is a heart-breaking reminder of how dangerous it can be to work on the railway.

The police and Rail Accident Investigation Branch have started their investigations. The investigation is at an early stage and we must not speculate on the causes of this terrible accident.

Across the Southern Region we have had a number of near misses and serious safety incidents over the last couple of months

What we must do is consider the work we are doing, challenge when there is concern or doubt about the safe system of work being adopted. We need to apply the highest level of risk controls and Think Risk in everything that we do.

We must also continue to look out for each other and provide support throughout this difficult time.

Southern Stand Down – July 2019

The region is asking everyone to take time and reflect.

The following slides will ask a number of questions. Everyone is encouraged to openly discuss their thoughts, feelings and concerns.

We ask everyone to consider what more we need to do to improve safety.

Everyone is asked to engage with the conversation, as part of this Stand Down and then every day.



Think RISK

It won't happen here?

Do we tolerate risk taking in our team?

When we do things repeatedly and nothing bad happens, we believe and feel we are safe... But are we?

- Are we too tolerant to risk?
- You have been doing something that you know is risky, you have been lucky so far. What would make you stop doing it? Why do you do it?
- How could you help your colleagues and friends stay safe?
- **What needs to change?**



Think **RISK**

This is a safety critical industry. In the worst case scenario it can result in fatalities.

- What are your key risks?
- How are they managed and controlled?
 - Do you feel you can challenge?



Think **RISK**

What are the key risks associated with your work?



Think **RISK**

In your work activity, how confident are you in the implementation of the controls? Discuss the impact of the following:

- **People**
- **Process / Paperwork**
- **Technology**



Think RISK

Do you feel you can challenge?

We support you to always stop, speak up and improve or fix if you can, if you do not feel safe.

But do you feel you can speak up?

- Do you feel empowered to discuss your concerns?
- Do contractors working with you feel able to raise concerns?
- How would you hold a meaningful conversation if someone raised a challenge?
- Are leaders at all levels throughout your business open to challenge? How can this be improved?



Think RISK

Do you always Take 5, before, during and after every task?
Are you always thinking risk, fixing hazards where safe to do
so and Close Call these - always?

Think RISK



Remember....

- The people best placed to prevent an accident are often those planning and resourcing the work; but the person last in the chain is responsible for implementing the safety arrangements and is often the person to get hurt. So - remember to TAKE 5, Think Risk and be sure. Everyone can say no if unsure. Always:
- Have a plan - check the plan - brief and understand the plan - challenge the plan
- Check where you and colleagues are positioned and what they are doing
- Use the key safety processes available to you:
 - **Close Call system** to report issues before they become accidents
 - **Invoke Worksafe Procedure** to prevent an accident today

Ultimately – if it's not safe; don't do it

