



ASPRO – Waterloo 20/07/2019

Title: Failure to Challenge Unsafe Working Practices

Incident

Two contractor rail safety supervisors (RSS) working for NWR Asset Protection and Optimization (ASPRO), whilst supervising works by a film company's contractor installing lights to the iron work underneath the South Lambeth Place bridge in London, observed unsafe working practices which they photographed but didn't challenge and report at the time.

The film company's contractor was working under a Basic Asset Protection Agreement (BAPA) which allows NWR to supervise third party works in and around its assets.

The RSS were tasked to ensure there was no damage to NWR asset during the project and that it was being done safely in line with the lifesaving rules and H&S standards. They were expected to cover night and day work.

Post project, ASPRO asset manager whilst reviewing the RSS site reports, became aware of photos taken by the RSS depicting the unsafe work e.g. lack of PPE, unfooted ladder, no safety harness, risk to public safety.

The RSS explained they were of the impression their role was only to ensure there was no damage to the asset and, were unaware they could challenge the unsafe work. They further stated that they were not given a formal briefing before they were put to work.

**Items for discussion:**

- Regardless of your job role, you have a moral and legal responsibility to take reasonable care for your health and safety and those of other persons affected by your acts or omission
- Do you feel empowered to challenge unsafe work, and what is your attitude to being challenged?
- How can you highlight potential risks to those you work with?
- Are we providing our people with the necessary information they need to carry out work safely?