

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Significant Near Miss— Swale

Issued to: SE Route

Ref: OI 250620

Date of Issue: 31/07/19

Location: Ashford DU/Swale Station Approach



Overview

On the 31st July a Patrolling team experienced a serious near miss outside Swale station.

The team consisted of a COSS and 2 lookouts. They had just completed their patrol when they identified some loose clips and proceeded to knock these in under site lookout protection.

The lookout did not see the approaching train and failed to give a warning. The train was travelling at approximately 30mph and narrowly missed striking the group. They only moved clear on hearing the driver sound his horn.

An Investigation is ongoing into this significant event. Once concluded additional learning points will be shared however this event is particularly shocking following the recent tragic fatalities of our colleagues in Wales only 4 weeks ago.

Key Learning / Discussion Points

- Before you go on or near the line, you must make sure you fully understand the safe system of work
- Whenever circumstances change the revised safe system of work should be re briefed by the COSS/PIC
- The importance of Lookout/s having clear instruction regarding which lines and direction of travel they are looking out for
- Tell the lookout where you want him to look and make sure sufficient sighting distance can be achieved in all directions.
- Do you test your Safe System of Work before starting work?

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