

Route Asset Manager- Buildings & Structures

PLANNED PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE (PPM) WORKS – SEVERE LACERATION TO ARM

INCIDENT

On Thursday the 28th of November 2019 at approx. 22:30, a 3 person group of contractors working for the Buildings and Civils, had just completed a planned preventative maintenance (PPM) work clearing box gutters at Richmond station, and were returning to their vehicle parked in the station car park.

As they approached the carpark through the side walkway leading to a set of 2 steps, a member of the group lost his footing and fell forward on the steps. As he fell, his inner right arm came in contact with the vertical end section of an armco barrier, causing severe lacerations to his arm.

First aid was administered, and he attended A&E where he received 20 stitches on the wound. He was also vaccinated against leptospirosis+ tetanus + polio and given a course of antibiotics.

While awaiting CCTV download from SWR, the initial findings of the investigation identified the following;

- The IP had become engaged in a conversation with the PiC as they returned to their vehicle
- The end section of the armco barrier was unprotected in a highly pedestrianized location
- The car park street light directly above the steps, was not operational at that time
- The IP had declined to attend treatment at the nearby hospital and drove himself to his local A&E in Poole, accompanied by a colleague
- Underfoot condition was wet with puddles of water on approach to the car park.



Armco safety end cap

Lessons Learnt

- **The need to always be alert and aware of your environment for the entire duration of work and to go home safe everyday**
- **Accidents can occur at any time and any place, including at the start and end of shifts, and change overs**
- **The need to review the risks of unprotected armco barriers and hoardings around pedestrianized locations across rail assets**
- **The need to always follow established emergency protocols to ensure yours and other people's safety.**