

Operational Safety Learning

Suspected damage to a structure or earthworks above or below the line

Issued to: Signallers / SSM / Control.
Ref: NSL/OPS/015
Date of issue: 17/08/2020
Location: National Issues
Contact: { [HYPERLINK "mailto:askoperations@networkrail.co.uk"](mailto:askoperations@networkrail.co.uk) }

Overview

Over the last few years we have seen an increased number of significant weather-related events which have caused major damage to the infrastructure of the railway. Events of this nature pose an increased risk to the safety of our trains, train crew & passengers.

The purpose of this briefing is to clarify:

- The actions to take in the event of a significant weather event being reported
- The requirements of the Signaller following a report of significant levels of rainfall

Actions to be taken for a forecasted significant rainfall event

- Where high levels of rainfall have been reported, signallers shall act in accordance with the instructions that they are given by Operations Control
- If you are in an area that is being affected by a significant increase of water levels advise Operations Control
- If you become concerned about the risk of a specific area during a rainfall event, stop trains from passing the area, report your concerns to Operations Control and act upon the instructions that you are given
- Following any report of subsidence, damage to a structure above or below the railway or damage to a bridge caused by other than a road vehicle, then an examination must **not** be made using a train it must be completed by a competent engineer

Report of flooding which has the potential to dislodge ballast

- If you become aware of flood water that is moving and it is likely to have caused the ballast to become unstable, or if you receive a report of water flowing from an embankment which has the potential to cause a landslip / wash-out, all trains must be stopped and prevented from passing over the location
- Report the conditions to Operations Control and act upon the instructions that you are given

Report of standing flood water

Details are to be found in Rule Book module M3 diagram M3.1



Discussion Points

- How might you become aware of damage to the infrastructure such as landslip / wash out?
- How can heavy rainfall affect the infrastructure?
- What would you do if a train is signalled and you receive a report of moving flood water or an embankment slip?
- When would it be considered safe for trains to pass?
- What topographical features increase the risk of moving flood water?
- What impact does flood water or other debris have on trains?
- What instructions do we give to the Driver?
- If you have any questions regarding this or any other publication from the National Operations Team please email: { [HYPERLINK "mailto:askoperations@networkrail.co.uk"](mailto:askoperations@networkrail.co.uk) }

