

Environment Period Bulletin P7 2020/21

Significant Events in the Period

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
20 Week 1	21	22 x2	23	24	25	26
27 Week 2	28	29	30	01	02	03
04 Week 3	05	06	07	08	09	10
x2 11 Week 4	12	13	14	15	16	17



We have experienced a significant increase in the number of accidents reported during the period. Out of the total of 16 accidents reported, 11 occurred within our maintenance teams.

The spike in the numbers could be a result of improved reporting. It is vital that we learn from the recent accidents and apply appropriate preventive measures, to ensure they don't reoccur.

On the 7th October 2020 we issued a Safety Moment to enable teams to take some time out and discuss the recent events, please follow the link—[Wessex Route Safety Moment Period 07 2020,21.pdf](#)

Operational Close Calls

The period has also seen a number of Operational Close Calls (OCC) and five instances resulting in a damage to the infrastructure.

23/09/2020 - Worksite irregularity within WON 25 Item 33 occurred when the ES (under mentorship) issued an authority to access the track and commence work before all straps at Waterloo were placed down and the isolation was fully protected.

The investigation established that the mentoring ES left the ES under mentorship alone during the isolation process and was not available to provide support or prevent errors. Remedial action will result in all future ES mentorship being carried out "in house" by the local team.

02/10/2020 - Line Blockage (LB) Irregularity in a 4 line block between Vauxhall and Waterloo. The LB was granted without identifying the need to key down two protecting automatic signals. The Signaller realised the omission as soon as the LB was granted and contacted the COSS who was unaware of the auto signals and the need to key them down. The requirement to key the signals was not recorded on the GZAC paperwork and there was a last minute change of the COSS.

Investigation into this OCC is currently ongoing.

04/10/2020 - Possession Irregularity within WON 27 Item 92 occurred when the detonator protection at Guildford was placed too close to the protecting points, leading to a passenger train intending to crossover the points to stop on the approach to the possession limit board on the Up Main.

This OCC is currently under investigation.

Infrastructure Damage:

- Telecoms cable cut during possession work at Marchwood,
- Signal EW41 struck during possession work at Haslemere,
- A severed cable at Surbiton resulting in the APA track circuit failing,
- Points 462a struck and damaged during possession work at Eastleigh,
- Damage to GPS signal BC1023 at Branksome as a result of being struck.

Discussion Points:

- Do you take time to think about the steps of what you are going to do?
- Do you feel confident to challenge if something doesn't seem right?
- How can you ensure you remain focused and risk aware throughout your shift?

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COVID and consequences of breaking the rules

If you have COVID symptoms you need to do the following:

- Stay off work and self-isolate,
- Book a test or get your line manager to book one via HR Direct,
- If your test is negative, you can return to work,
- If your test is positive, you should tell your manager and continue to self isolate for 10 days.



For more information please refer to the following guidance [Symptoms Test and Trace and Isolation final.pdf](#)

Recently a colleague came to work even though he was displaying symptoms and a subsequent test result was positive. His action put the industry at risk as the 9 members of the maintenance team, he was in contact with, had to be stood down and told to self-isolate. This was a worrying time for some in the team, due to having vulnerable family members at home.

The impact of the individual's decision to ignore the government advice will be long lasting.

He will be a subject to an internal disciplinary investigation and the damage to the trust and relationships within the team may never be repaired.

All the safeguards NWR has implemented to protect all our staff will not work if employees will breach their obligation and report for duty with symptoms of COVID.

From 28th September 2020 fines of up to £10,000 are being issued to those breaking the isolation rules so ask yourself - IS IT WORTH IT?

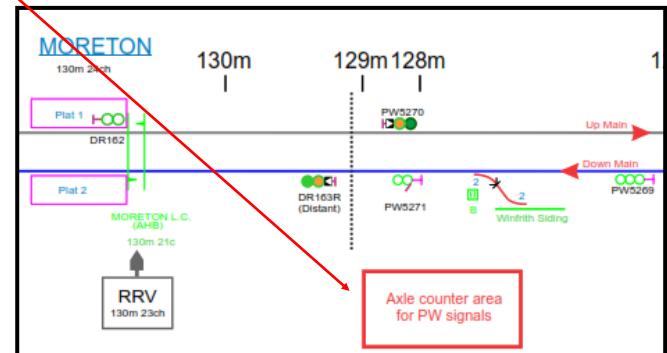
Axle Counters and how to avoid accidental activation

Axle counters are used to determine whether or not there is a train in a section between two sets of points.

Recently in Kent, colleagues have inadvertently triggered axle counters while carrying out faulting and maintenance activities, resulting in delays to our passengers and a signal passed at danger.

To mitigate the likelihood of an accidental activation of an axle counter, the following precautions must be followed when working in an axle counter section:

- ◆ The COSS/PIC must contact the signaller before undertaking any work on any axle counter equipment to notify them of the team's location and the nature of work being undertaken;
- ◆ You must never use any metallic objects or equipment within 300mm of Axle Counter heads. Do not walk over axle counters, as steel toe cap safety boots can activate the counters, causing the section/s to appear occupied, leading to a change of aspect on associated signals;
- ◆ The COSS/PIC must perform a site brief and highlight the location of all axle counters in the area where work is being undertaken (including walking route to and from site) to all team members prior to work starting. You can use the Wessex Track Diagrams as a reference to assist in identifying the location of axle counters (best practice);
- ◆ When measuring the height of axle counter heads relative to the rail head, this is to be undertaken either using the approved plumb bob and string and an insulated tape or ruler as stipulated in the SMS (or through using a non-metallic step confirmation gauge, subject to local approval).



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019 Principles Briefings

We are in the process of planning a number of face to face sessions to deliver the 019 Principles Briefings across the Wessex Route before the end of March 2021.

We will be holding day time and night time sessions to accommodate our frontline teams and the different rosters.

All staff with PTS competence, Responsible Managers and Planners will be invited to attend a briefing session.

Everybody with the PTS competence will need to attend the briefing prior to the end of March otherwise their competence will be suspended until they are briefed.



Lets get the basics right - are you and your team members wearing the right PPE?



WEAR HEAD PROTECTION – Hard Hats protect our most valuable assets and will offer protection if you bump into fixed objects or equipment, or if something falls onto you!
16% of workers who sustain a head injury are



WEAR EYE PROTECTION – 10 to 20% of eye injuries that occur in the UK lead to partial or full blindness. 90% of workplace eye injuries are preventable with the use of eyewear. **DON'T BE ONE OF THE STATISTICS, WEAR YOUR SAFETY GLASSES AT ALL TIMES.**



WEAR FOOT PROTECTION – Safety boots/shoes protect against impact, compression and puncture injuries, whilst also helping prevent slips, trips and falls. **77% of foot injuries could be prevented by safety footwear.**



WEAR HAND PROTECTION – An estimated 60% of hand injuries could be prevented with the use of safety gloves. **REMEMBER; GLOVES DON'T JUST PROTECT YOUR HANDS FROM INJURY, THEY ALSO ACT AS BARRIER BETWEEN GERMS AND YOUR SKIN.**



WEAR HIGH VISIBILITY CLOTHING – A person wearing Hi-Vis clothing is visible approximately 300 metres away, compared to 50 metres for someone who is not wearing Hi-Vis clothing.
BE SEEN, KEEP IT CLEAN!!

Planned Assurance Inspection Site Surveillance (PAISS)

From the start of Period 9, Planned Assurance Inspection & Site Surveillance (PAISS – formerly known as PGSIs) will be undertaken on our I.R.I.S system.

This will allow records to be created in a web-based app accessible to all (via QR code), and licence holders can access the full system to manage the actions, data and formal records.

The revised PAISS form takes elements from the old CMO PAISS form and the COVID MS Forms questionnaire to combine to a single PAISS form, which better reflects the balance of risk between safety risks and COVID. This is the new agreed way of doing PAISS inspections.

All existing I.R.I.S users will be given access to the Audit section of the system automatically. If an additional user is identified please speak to your local WHSEA as a new account and training will be required.



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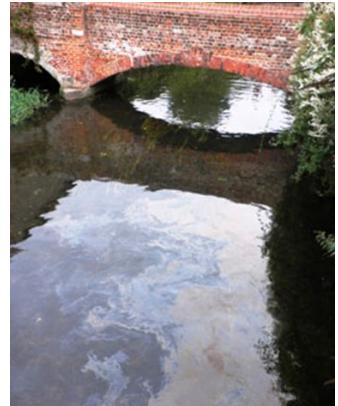
Environment



Biodegradable Fluids

Yes

- During the degradation the fluid can still cause harm, although its impact will decrease over time.
- 'Readily biodegradable' fluids by definition can take 28 days to degrade just 60%.
- Biodegradable fluids are still preferable to their non biodegradable alternatives as they reduce the long term impact and often have a lower toxicity.



Why is cleaning up even small spills important?

- Just 1 litre of oil can contaminate 1 million litres of water.
- Many drains lead directly to rivers, streams or lakes, and if you allow oil to enter a drain it can have the same effect as you pouring it directly into a watercourse.
- In water oil spreads over the surface in a thin layer that stops oxygen getting to the plants and animals, on land it can also affect soils physical properties.

How to minimise the environmental impact if spills/leaks occur:

- **Plan:** Ensure you have applicable spill kits on site, in vehicles and/or strategic locations. Store drums or containers in or on bunded storage.
- **Protect:** If safe, protect drains and watercourses if a large spill occurs using available spill kits.
- **Deploy:** If safe, use spill kit to clean up the leak/spill.

- Spills of 20 litres or above will be reported by the WICC to the Environmental Agency

Health and Wellbeing

Health Surveillance Programme 2020 - 21

The Employee:

Who needs to go?

This years programme cover **five** health hazards (HAVS, Noise, Respiratory, skin and nightwork). If you are exposed to any of the above, you need to attend a health surveillance appointment.

What is happening now?

Your Line Manager is booking you onto a 60min telephone assessment. There is no need for you to travel anywhere, but you do need to have a quiet and private space and a reliable telephone number.

What will happen on the day?

At the time of your appointment, Optima will call you. It will be a "no caller id" number. Make sure you are in a quiet space to take the call.

Although the call is 60min, it will be shorter if you are exposed to the less than five health risk.

The Line Manager:

Who needs to go?

This years programme cover **five** health hazards (HAVS, Noise, Respiratory, skin and nightwork). If any of your employees are exposed to any of these health risk, liaise with your DU contact to book appointments for your employees.

What is happening now?

Your DU contact, has received a number of clinic dates and times and she is trying to get these clinic slots filled. Liaise with her about getting all your at risk employees booked on a health assessment appointment.

Let your employees know they are booked onto an appointment and ensure they have access to a private space and telephone number to undertake the call..

Clinics are currently delivered for day time workers between 9am and 5pm.

Further details for colleagues working alternative shifts will be shared in due course.