

## Wessex Accidents 20/09/2020 - 06/10/2020

### Introduction

Between Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 6th October 2020 we experienced 12 accidents, when a member of staff did not go home in the same condition he/she was in when reporting to work. Most of the accidents were minor and the individuals were able to carry on and return to work on the following shift. However, one of them led to a fractured finger which resulted in a lost time, while others could have resulted in more severe outcome.

### What happened?

On Sunday 27th September 2020, during wheel timber replacement works on the Down Alton Line at North Junction Bridge, a member of staff stepped down from the track onto the scaffold to make modifications to one of the timbers.

At this point, the black matting used to prevent debris falling into the canal, was concealing the fact that there were no boards in that section. He fell through the scaffold up to his waist before catching himself. The worker was bruised but sustained no significant injuries, however he was shaken by the incident.



Scaffolding had been erected during the week but not checked on the night, before the start of the work. This is currently under investigation with the scaffolding contractor.

On Sunday 27th September 2020, during the same wheel timber replacement, a Simplex jack was used to move a wheel timber sideways.

When the handle of the jack came up as a result of not being correctly clicked into position, a member of staff had his hand trapped between the handle and the opposite timber, sustaining a fracture to his right middle finger and laceration/bruising to his ring finger.



The IP was unable to return to work on his next shift.



On Wednesday 30th September 2020, a member of the team carrying out 0-7 routine vegetation clearance in the Castle Carry area sustained a laceration to his left shin.

He was using a chainsaw to cut up some cuttings when he experienced a kickback and the chainsaw came into contact with his leg. He was taken to hospital where the injury was cleaned and a butterfly stitch was applied and the individual was able to return to work on his next shift.

Major injuries were avoided by wearing the correct chainsaw PPE as there is an inherent risk of kickback when using a chainsaw but the chainsaw trousers did what they were designed to do.

On Friday 02/10/2020, a member of staff carrying out lookout duties was walking in the cess in the Guildford area when he caught his right shin on a sharp tree branch.

He carried on as he was not aware he injured himself, but upon examining his leg at the end of the patrol, he discovered he sustained a considerable laceration. Hospital visited and three stitches were administered.



On Sunday 4th October 2020, the Welding Team were loading their van at the end of the shift with equipment/machinery at Waterloo.

Whilst in the process of loading up a Frog grinder, the locking mechanism/catch was not fully in place. When it was lifted the grinding part started sliding along the framework and as one of the team members attempted to stop it from striking his colleague, he grabbed and pulled it too far towards his face/nose.

As a result the IP ripped the skin off the bridge of his nose, FA administered on site.

On Tuesday 6th October 2020, a member of the D&P team was walking in the cess of Poole Sidings when the surface gave way beneath him.

The individual fell into a sink hole up to his knee and momentarily brushed against the conductor rail, fortunately not receiving an electric shock. He only sustained minor grazing but was considerably shaken up by the event.

The location is currently prohibited from use pending a Geotech inspection following the identification of further ground giving way underfoot.



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It is vital that we continue to report accidents and incidents to ensure they are investigated and their root cause established. It is important that we learn from them and implement suitable preventive measures, to avoid future reoccurrence.

#### Discussion Points

- The importance of satisfying yourself that any safety measures that have been set up for your teams by outside parties, or that you have inherited from a previous shift, are appropriate for your task and are in full working order. Do you always carry out a dynamic risk assessment before you commence your task?
- Is the tool or equipment you are using the right tool for the job? Is there a better/safer alternative that could be used instead?
- How do you remain focused and aware of any hazards throughout your shift?
- The importance of wearing the full, task appropriate PPE, including gloves and safety glasses. Do you check your PPE to ensure it is in good condition and fit for its purpose?

#### STOP AND TAKE 5



Take 5 is a simple and quick safety check that you can carry out at any stage of an activity. No matter what your role or where you work, it can help you to think about the hazards associated with your work and complete your activities safely.

**Taking 5 before, during and/or after a task can help us to spot a risk that we might otherwise have overlooked.**

##### Before the task:

- Think through the steps of what you are going to do
- Identify any risks within your site of work and put control measures in place before you start

##### During the task:

- Ask yourself if you feel safe doing what you are doing? And are my colleagues around me working safely?

##### After the task:

- Check the site of work
- Reflect on the task—are there any everyday improvements that could be made?

**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO DIFFERENTLY TO KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR COLLEAGUES SAFE AND ENSURE YOU ALL GO BACK HOME TO YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE EVERY DAY?**

