



Infrastructure Projects Southern *Home Safe*

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

08 November 2017

Operational Close Call at Slade Green

An Operational Close Call was raised after a track trolley went outside a possession and made a section of track show as occupied. The incident occurred whilst moving a track trolley within a depot possession which went outside of the working limits. Once outside the worksite the trolley operated a track circuit. At the same time an empty train travelling from Slade Green station into the depot had the signal in front of it put to danger. The train driver had to effect an emergency stop; however, the train passed the signal showing a red aspect before it stopped. This event has been classified as a category B SPAD (Signal Passed At Danger) and is now the subject of an investigation. The train was returned to Slade Green station while the signaller re-routed it into the depot. There were no injuries but this event resulted in delays and cancellations to services.

Warning...working at height



An operative died after he fell from a height of 86 centimetres (2.8 foot) whilst working on a highways project in Poland. He was undertaking the task of transporting an asphalt roller onto a transporter with the help of the low-loading semi-trailer to a new location. The operative decided to get out of the cabin; the transporter's driver described that one of the operative's legs was already on the semi-trailer

platform, when he fell and hit his head on the pavement. After the incident the operative complained about a pain. He was taken to hospital and was diagnosed with a hematoma in his head, alongside bruising to his occipital bone and had suffered a spinal injury. The operative underwent various operations and was put into an induced coma, a few days later the operative died. A subsequent investigation established the immediate and contributory causes of this incident, including, **not recognising low level falls as a potential for severe/fatal injuries in risk assessments.** Alongside **not embedding the principal contractor's safety standards e.g. wearing the correct PPE including safety helmets.**

Lesson learned...

- ***Low level working falls can result in serious injury and need to be included in your risk assessments***
- ***Always wear the correct PPE***
- ***Use mechanical means to load and off load when required.***

Need to know what PPE is required?

Remember...[The Southern Shield PPE guide](#) provides guidance on the minimum standard of PPE required in the southern region.

The Shield October 2017

The October 2017 edition of The Shield is now available on the Southern Shield website. This edition features a look at manual handling; slips, trip and falls; and tools and equipment being the most popular factors involved in incidents within the southern region. One of the latest Southern Shield Charter updates about wearing flame retardant PPE and interviews with some of the workers who were involved with moving Pangdean substation – plus many other stories. If you would like to receive copies of The Shield on your site email: shield@networkrail.co.uk.



If you would like a colleague to receive Home Safe, please contact:

shield@networkrail.co.uk

Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk or go to www.southernshield.co.uk

Home Safe

High brow



An operative cut his eyebrow whilst working on a scissor lift under the Hungerford Bridge. He hit his forehead on the edge of a steel beam that formed part of the bridge structure. The operative was wearing full PPE at the time of the incident.

As a result of the waiting time at the nearest hospital being estimated at over three hours, the operative was taken to his local hospital, where the wound was cleaned and glued.

Environmental incident

At Ashstead, cut up lengths of copper oil filled cables had been left in the battery cupboard of the substation. A very small amount of oil had leaked from these cables onto the floor. A spill kit was deployed to prevent a further escape of oil.

The Swan whisperers



A Swan was rescued from the southern end of the West Anglia Main Line site near Tottenham Hale. The route passes through a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas (SPA) and RAMSAR designated areas where a cluster of reservoirs and watercourses provide ideal over wintering, breeding and feeding habitats for many birds. In this particular incident a swan had collided with the overhead lines whilst a bridge was being removed from over

the River Lee Navigation. A RSPCA officer took the bird away for a check-up before releasing it back into the water. As a result of this incident the site agents now have the RSPCA's national control centre number so that they can report any issues and advise on the nearest safe access point. Alongside escorting officers from the RSPCA onto the railway so that they can rescue birds that may have fallen onto the tracks.

Do you have your Feel Safe to Ask sticker?



If you don't have a sticker for your helmet contact your local safety team or email: shield@networkrail.co.uk.

In other news...

And remember...road traffic incidents are likely to happen...

- On long journeys on monotonous roads, such as motorways
- Between 2am and 6am
- Between 2pm and 4pm (especially after eating, or taking even one alcoholic drink)
- After having less sleep than normal
- After drinking alcohol or taking drugs
- If taking medicines that cause drowsiness
- After long working hours or on journeys home after long shifts, especially night shifts.

You can find [a toolbox talk on driver fatigue](#) in the Southern Shield website library in the Toolbox Talks (June 2017) booklet.

DC electrical hazard awareness

The Southern Shield DC Electrical Working Group has produced [a DC Electrical Hazard Awareness briefing](#) which you can now access through the Southern Shield website. Network Rail were consulted on the development of this briefing and are looking at incorporating some of the key messages into an enhanced version of DC Conductor Rail training as part of PTS in the southern region.



Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk or go to www.southernshield.co.uk