

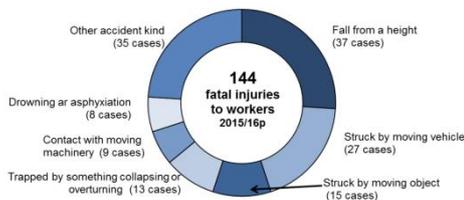


Infrastructure Projects Southern Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

27 September 2017

144 people killed at work



In Great Britain in 2015/16, 144 workers were killed at work and an estimated 622,000 workers suffered non-fatal injuries as a result of work activity. The HSE reported that the kinds of accidents being sustained

remain similar year-on-year. Just over a quarter of all fatal injuries (37 cases) were accounted for by fall from a height, while being struck by a moving vehicle/plant accounted for a further 20 percent of workplace fatalities (27 cases).

Non-fatal accidents and incidents

Of the estimated 622,000 non-fatal workplace injuries slip, trips and falls and accidents while handling, lifting or carrying accounted for approximately 32% of these incidents, this figure is even higher in the southern region; therefore:

Our focus areas for eliminating non-fatal accidents should be in the following three key areas:

- **Manual handling (39%)**
- **Slips and trips (20%)**
- **The use of tools and equipment (11%)**

Blinding force



A machine operator suffered pain in his eyes from the arc formed from a flashover. During an operation to move a 60 foot length of rail a crane controller directed the machine operator to lower his jib, which was fitted with a chain to attach to the rail. As the chain was lowered it came in to contact with a live rail. It appears that the rail had compromised the sheafing of an electrical feeder cable which was underneath and had become energised. The machine operator did not receive an electric shock but was shaken by the incident; he attended hospital as a precautionary measure. The incident is currently under investigation

Lesson learned... A detailed site survey should be carried out prior to storing rail in out of use areas as operational cables may be present.

Did you know?

Blistered and burned

An operative suffered serious injury after carrying out vegetation works. He reported that over the weekend, around 60 small bushes were cut.

In a recent edition of *Home Safe* it was reported that an operative suffered serious injury after carrying out vegetation works. It appears that he may have come into contact with Black Bryony. Here are some [more facts](#) and further details about the incident.

Cable strike

A cable was struck by an RRV during a line track renewal, which affected the track circuit within the possession. The cable was repaired with no effect to the operational railway. The incident is currently under investigation.

Tools and equipment...

An operative was using a hedge trimmer and came into contact with the blade when he lost his balance. The trimmer became snagged and, while trying to loosen it, his knee came into contact with the blade of the machine which was still rotating at the time. The operative sustained a small cut to his knee. He was taken to hospital where he received stitches. The incident is currently under investigation.

In another incident an operative was installing a containment tray when the Combi drill he was using slipped causing a small laceration to his right hand. He was given first aid on site and attended the local A&E.

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

Rechargeable batteries...beware



A set of rechargeable batteries exploded in an operative's pocket burning his fleece. Luckily the operative removed his fleece in time which avoided any serious injury.

Did you know that... portable lithium batteries are now more lightweight which can add an extra

risk to lithium ion batteries? Components like the separators that keep the battery's positive and negative electrodes apart are built thin to keep battery weight down, but if they get pierced can short circuit and quickly heat things up. A spark from the short can set off a fire, and a build-up in pressure as the heat goes up can make the battery explode.



Remember...when carrying batteries keep them away/separate from other objects like keys e.g. When charging lithium batteries make sure they have cooled down before placing them into pockets, containers or in equipment. Always ensure that you purchase these from reputable establishments.

Lessons learned from dry riser failure

A six inch diameter dry riser was in the process of being hydraulically tested when it failed. The failure occurred at a 90 degree elbow which is approximately five metres from ground level. Fortunately, no one was injured as the failure occurred in an isolated room away from station, operational and public areas. Further details can be found [here](#).

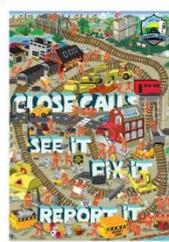


Lesson learned

- **Systems being pressure tested must have the appropriate exclusion zones in place and be marshalled.**
- **Pressure gauges must be calibrated and current.**
- **Inspectors must have radio/phone contact with the person charging the line so in the event of a leak the pressure can be de-energised safely within an appropriate timescale.**
- **Permits to load and temporary works assessments must be completed and checked by a temporary works supervisor.**

Close Call review

Each period the Safety Leadership Team (SLT) review the top five Close Calls in the southern region by severity and also by frequency. This helps to identify any key issues and trends which are brought to the attention of the SLT for their consideration and action. In Period 6 the key risk areas and trends were found to be interface with the public and human factors. The Period 6 Close Call review can be found [here](#).



Remember... Lessons Learnt

The Southern Shield Lesson Learnt document has been updated to include lessons from past incidents at Hackney Wick and Waterloo. Please click on the image below to access the document on the Southern Shield website.



Cable contact

A Cardiff to Holyhead train was arriving at Abergavenny station when an armoured power cable, which was hanging from the station footbridge became caught on the roof of the train. The cable snagged on the train's roof and was dragged, causing it to be pulled from its remaining fixings. Further information about this incident can be found in the [RAIB safety advice](#).

Bridge fall

A Lookout nearly fell after he walked over an open grid metal deck bridge. Further information about the incident can be found [here](#).

Incident involving a lorry mounted crane

A jib of a crane snagged the return conductor, dragging it down and damaging a panel of the temporary fence whilst undertaking delivery of rolls of geotextile. Further information about the incident can be found [here](#).

Dangerous live line tester

The manufacturers of the Seaward Live Line Tester advised that there are a small number of units in circulation that have a manufacturing defect. Further information can be found in this [safety bulletin](#).