



Infrastructure Projects Southern Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

13 December 2017

Machine Controller suffers broken foot

A Machine Controller working for the Anglia Route suffered two broken metatarsals when two wooden sleepers fell onto his foot.



The Machine Controller was tasked with relocating a pile of four banded sleepers from a raised retaining wall area which was adjacent to the railway track. In readiness to attach a sleeper baler, he stepped up onto the edge of the retaining wall between the sleepers to cut the banding. As he attempted to fasten the RRV attachment to the sleepers the top three sleepers toppled and the Machine Controller stumbled backwards over the retaining wall and two of the sleepers struck his foot. The accident is subject to an on-going investigation.

Immediate learning:

- Do you consider where you store materials?
- Does your risk assessment consider the environment you are working in and the stability of any materials you are moving?

Hands-free phones are legal, so what's the problem?

A judge warned against the dangers of using hands-free mobile phones while driving, after a woman became distracted during a 20 minute "in depth" conversation and killed a motorcyclist. The driver was found guilty of death by dangerous driving at Lincoln Crown Court. The judge said a prison sentence was inevitable, "There has to be an immediate custodial sentence. The fact that using a phone (hands-free) is lawful does not alter the fact it is an actual distraction. The guidelines make that clear."

In a moving statement, the motorcyclist's widow said that her daddy went to work and didn't come back... *do you believe that hands-free phones are OK?*



Never use a hand-held or hands-free phone, or programme any other mobile device, while driving.

The December edition of the Shield is now available

Click on the picture below to see a copy



Electrical Close Calls

There were a number of electrical Close Calls in our Region last Period:

- Live HV cables left exposed as troughing lids were missing
- Negative cables cut and left exposed
- A side panel from a battery charger was missing leaving live terminals exposed.

All hazards were made safe at time or reported to relevant maintainer to make safe.

These Close Calls highlight the potentially dangerous environment in which our teams operate and the importance of ensuring our workforce is briefed on electrical hazards. An Electrical Hazard Awareness Brief is available on the [Southern Shield website](http://www.southernshield.co.uk)

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

Home Safe

Safe use of plant at Stone Crossing

At Stone Crossing footbridge, the challenge was to find an excavator which could drive between sites and comply with ALO working restrictions in a tight and narrow layout. The JCB Hydradig was selected by Costain as a versatile and cutting-edge machine capable of performing all the required tasks.



The excavator allowed great visibility with zero tail swing and smooth operational control. It was ideally suited to working under ALO conditions as it was physically unable to touch the 'envelope of influence' from its working position on the road. Banksmen also used



Never enter the agreed exclusion zone, unless directed to by the person in charge.

Det-Comms to talk to the driver and everyone on site was briefed on safe exclusion zone working and the 'thumbs up' rule.

Vacuum lift failure



A glass reinforced concrete panel was being installed at height when the vacuum lifter failed.

A spider crane using a GSK1000 vacuum lifter with a safe working load of 1000kg was being used to lift a 240kg panel. In the process of re-adjusting the panel, the seal of the vacuum lifter failed and the panel tilted towards the crane coming to rest on the end of the crane jib. The operatives in the basket of a scissor lift, positioned immediately in front of the panel, restrained the panel by pushing it back into the vertical position. They took the safest course of action to fit the brackets and complete the permanent installation of the panel.

Immediate learning:

- Lifting arrangements need to be clear, documented in a Lift Plan and carried out by competent personnel
- Any equipment used for lifting, requires identification and routine checks for condition
- On site observations of lifts should be undertaken to identify any failure points.

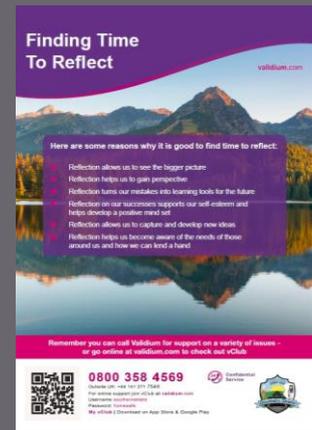
HSS ALERT: mud-terrain off-road tyres

The Vehicle Certification Agency have noted that vehicles fitted with mud-terrain tyres are more difficult to control and become less predictable should a driver need to make sudden movements at speed.

They have recently advised that vehicles with mud-terrain tyres are unlikely to pass the whole vehicle type approval tests unless the vehicle's suspension is sufficiently modified.

Health & Wellbeing news

Validium, our Southern Shield External Assistance Provider has released their December newsletter, an information sheet and poster. You can find these documents, and the new H&W Strategy, on the Southern shield website by clicking on the poster below:



Hand injury...no gloves

An operative undertaking preparation works put a drill bit into the drill; once the bit had been installed the operative pulled the trigger on the drill causing the bit to slide along the palm of his hand resulting in a laceration to the skin. He attended hospital and was discharged without any need for follow up treatment. He was not believed to be wearing gloves at time of accident. An investigation is underway.



Always use the equipment that is fit for its intended purpose

Cable strike

During de-vegging works the site team were informed by a Network Rail fault team that there was a fault with a set of points. A lineside cable had been damaged near the points.

Are you aware of the danger of damaging unprotected cables that lie around our infrastructure?

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