



Infrastructure Projects Southern Home Safe

The Southern Region's Weekly Safety Update

05 October 2016

Hammer to the hand

An operative working at Waterloo International Viaduct hit his thumb whilst using a 4lb club hammer, resulting in a cut and bruising. The individual was using an improvised tool for the task.

The operative's thumb was cleaned and dressed on site, before attending hospital for further examination. He was advised that there were no broken bones, but the injury required stitches or glue. The operative has returned to work and the incident is currently under investigation. *You can find the [full bulletin here](#).*



Lessons learnt...

The tool being used was not appropriate for the task being undertaken. Always make sure you are using the correct tool for the job and seek advice if you are unsure.

Concrete burns



A ground worker was helping to lay concrete when he waded in too deep, resulting in concrete rising over his safety wellington boots and coming into contact with his leg. This caused him to receive a concrete burn to his leg and require medical advice.

Luckily as only a small amount of concrete came into contact with his skin and it was washed off shortly after coming into contact, the individual only sustained a minor burn on a very small surface area of the skin. Concrete burns should not occur, however when they do, they must be taken seriously as the consequences can be life threatening. *You can view the [full bulletin here](#).*

Immediate lessons learnt...

Always ensure you are wearing suitable PPE for the task you are undertaking. On this occasion, safety waders would have provided better protection.

You can find a copy of the 'Working with wet concrete' toolbox talk on the Southern Shield website.



Click on the shield above to access our website

Good practice

A hand operated whacker plate was being used on site at Wreclesham for the compaction of foundations in preparation for a gabion basket wall.

The extended use of this machine exposes those using it to a HAVs risk. The One Team Wessex team identified the risk and looked into alternative methods that would reduce the risk.

Following this, the team have hired a remotely operated whacker plate, which removes the HAVs risk to the operative using the machine. A purple CRN has been issued to the team for taking this proactive step.



For more information, please contact [Nick Freeman](#).

Contact us: shield@networkrail.co.uk

Home Safe

Finger caught in van



A driver was collecting tools from site at Queenstown Road when he trapped one of his fingers in the drop-down gate on the side of the vehicle. This resulted in a small cut to his finger and bruising.

First aid was administered on site and he was able to continue with his duties.

Remember...

We have recently had a number of incidents involving trapped fingers. Keep your hands and fingers away from moving parts and trapping hazards.

Is your PPE fit for purpose?

Whilst undertaking surveys on site at Brighton, a Designer who was wearing new safety boots, experienced discomfort and found that the new boots had caused bad blisters to his feet.

Remember...

PPE is personal protective equipment, and as such should be supplied to fit the individual.



Derailment and Collision at Watford Tunnel

On 19 September, a train struck a landslip at the entrance to Watford Tunnel. Coming to a stop in the tunnel, the derailed train was then struck by a train travelling in the opposite direction before emergency protection could be put in place. There were two passenger injuries reported from the trains involved.

60mm of rain fell between 3am and 7am that morning which is equivalent to a months' worth of rainfall for September in the Watford area. This had caused a failure of the cutting. Vegetation had also been removed from the cutting surface as part of work to mitigate the threat of rock-fall with netting. *You can find the [full bulletin here](#).*



Think...

Are similar cutting slopes being worked on in our region and if so, are the procedures for managing the risks posed by adverse weather events clearly understood and applied?

If you would like a colleague to receive Home Safe, please contact Daisy.Read@networkrail.co.uk

Behaviour on site

An altercation between four operatives occurred on the staircase access to the south sidings Waterloo. This resulted in an eye injury and one individual being taken to hospital for treatment. Investigations are currently underway, but it is thought that the incident was initiated by work site 'banter' that turned sour.

Remember...

Aggressive behaviour is totally unacceptable on our worksites and in our offices and will not be tolerated.

Driving down accidents

Driving is the most dangerous work activity that most people do and around 150 people are killed or seriously injured every week in crashes involving someone who was driving, riding or otherwise using the road for work purposes.

Exceeding the speed limit is a factor in 14% in fatal road accidents and is a real issue in our business where we see numerous rule breaches.

Remember...

Network Rail's Lifesaving Rules apply both at work and whilst using company supplied equipment such as a car or a mobile phone, including using company equipment in your own time.

Check your speedometer regularly and look out for signs, especially at junctions and when leaving high speed roads.

Recognise what makes you speed, concentrate and give yourself plenty of time.

