



Southern Capital Delivery

Home Safe

Southern Shield Weekly Safety Update

15 April 2020

Railway fatality

It is incredibly sad for all of us when one of our colleagues doesn't get home safely to their family. So, it was with great sadness that it was reported that Aden Ashurst, an AMCOGIFFEN colleague, was fatally struck by a train in Roade near Northampton on 8 April.

This comes at a time when we are working in an unprecedented environment, with COVID-19 changing the way we live and work. And while the exact circumstances are the subject of ongoing investigations, the most important thing for us to focus on is our common goal of working towards a safer working environment.



Although we had an accident free Easter weekend in the Southern Region, we have seen an increase in accidents over the past few weeks and the distraction caused by COVID-19 may be an issue. **Remember** to stay focussed on all the usual railway safety risks as these have not gone away.

Poor communication leads to Near Miss

Three Network Rail workers had to jump clear of a train travelling at a speed of 125 mph near Kirtlebridge.

The staff had just begun a track inspection under the protection of the radio-based Lookout Operated Warning System (LOWS) when the train approached unexpectedly round a bend. The train driver sounded the horn and applied the emergency brake. The staff jumped clear less than one second before the train passed. There were no injuries.



Why did this happen? Witness evidence shows that members of the LOWS team were following their normal practice of using informal language, rather than the formal communication protocol mandated by Network Rail. As a result, their conversation did not result in a clear understanding between the staff involved.

How clear are your safety communications?

No authority to work

A Network Rail Construction Manager was driving past an access point when he saw sparks coming from inside the access. Suspecting cable theft was in progress, he went to investigate. He saw two men in orange near the line cutting a troughing lid. Although both had valid Sentinel cards and a Task Brief, the documentation was not in date and they had not signed into the possession.

They were due to start work in another part of the site away from the railway; however, they thought they would try and make up work that was not completed during a previous possession.

Both individuals have had their competencies suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.



Always be sure the required plans and permits are in place, before you start a job or go on or near the line.

Looking after your workmates

Distractions caused by COVID-19 issues make it more important than ever to challenge potentially unsafe situations...

...and always raise a Close Call so that others can learn and avoid the same mistakes.

See it, Fix it, Report it

Home Safe

Some good practice on maintaining social distancing on site

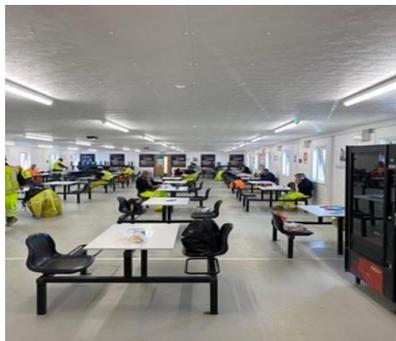
Working Locations

- Follow a one-way direction.
- Painted chevrons to ensure 2m distancing.



Regular cleaning regime

- Increase facilities for hand washing.
- Enhance cleaning of toilets facilities, communal areas and touch points.
- Change PPE after every shift and wash or spray with suitable cleaner.
- Use disposable PPE if available.



Mess Rooms

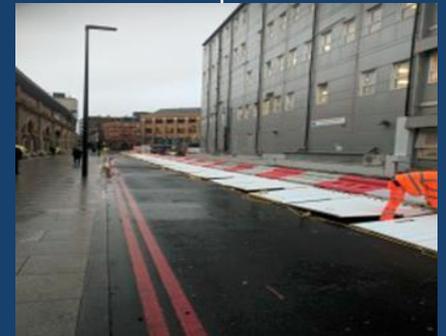
- Bring prepared food to work.
- Use disposable cutlery, plates and cups.
- Stagger breaks and meal times.
- Space out, remove or tape off chairs to create 2m spacing.

Travel

- Vehicles – single person in a vehicle where possible.
- Home start for colleagues, travel direct from home to work site.
- Access free parking at Network Rail managed stations

Can your worksite withstand strong winds?

It can be forgotten during the recent good weather, but April and May can often be months when high gusting winds occur. In the past, this caused a hoarding measuring 68 meters in length and over two meters high to be blown over. Although no one was in close proximity at the time of this particular incident, there was a severe risk to site personnel and members of the public.



Always remember:

- Site hoardings are temporary works and must be designed with appropriate checks carried out.
- Weather conditions must be considered when planning the works with suitable measures in place to react to predicted or actual conditions.

A shared learning document was produced following the event shown above and can be found on [the Southern Shield website](#).

Did you know that...the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 require every duty holder to always design out hazards?

Managing Temporary Works

Did you know that you can find Managing Temporary Works guidance on the [Southern Shield website](#).

Great social distancing in action

