



**Resourcing
Solutions**
engaging people

Welcome to Resourcing Solutions' Safety Briefing: July 2016

Think Safe, Act Safe and Be Safe



Our Safety Vision:

- Our vision of “preventing harm to all” is at the centre of our Safety Strategy and is synonymous with our commitment to resourcing and working safely.
- We believe that our vision can be achieved if we all develop a safe mind-set, plan our tasks correctly and actively seek ways to prevent incidents. We also believe that behaving in a safe way will also lead to zero accidents. We have devised a set of rules that underpins our vision and are consistent with our mantra. **Think safe, act safe and be safe!**



Think Safe, Act Safe and Be Safe



In this edition:

- Safety Rule of the month
- Network Rail Life Saving Rules reminder
- Serious injury during crane lifting operations
- Wearing of unapproved headwear
- Fuel cube left within 2m of open lines
- Member of staff fell down catch pit at Reading
- Cut Surface Mounted Cable Caused Axle Counter Failure and Delays to Train Services
- “Pokémon Go” craze raises safety concerns
- Looking after others at work
- Signal Post TL0010 Dropped during Lifting Operation
- Swindon Area Signalling Renewal Project – Close Call
- Polite Reminder – Signing in and out of sites with SAC’s

Action required:

- After reading this briefing, you are required to respond, please click **“I have read and understood”** or email ebeardsley@resourcing-solutions.com with acknowledgement and any questions/suggestions

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The rule that was focused on in July was:

- **Always use fall protection.** Falling from height can cause death. When working at height, be sure to use all precautions, like harnesses. Do not climb on edge protection or MEWP baskets. Take care not to drop things from height.
- **Always use a ladder appropriately.** Falling from a ladder can cause serious injuries even death. You must ensure the ladder is in good condition and on good footing, never over-reach on a ladder and ensure to have three points of contact with the ladder at all times.

Safety Rules for August:

- **Always practice good housekeeping and keep the workplace clean and tidy.** An untidy workplace can cause accidents and ill health. There are many things that will contribute to an unsafe workplace from poor lighting to inadequate ventilation. An unhygienic workplace can attract vermin that carry diseases. Simple actions (housekeeping) can help keep the workplace safe, this may include moving tripping hazards from walkways, cleaning windows, putting unsafe equipment in quarantine.

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Life Saving Rule Reminder – Working with electricity :

- In July 2014, Network Rail revised their Life Saving Rules and as a result, reduced them from 11 to 10 in number.



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



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

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Serious injury during crane lifting operations:

- A serious hand injury occurred on a structures renewals site on the 11th June during a lifting operation.
- An operative was unloading crane pad mats with a lorry mounted crane when their hand became trapped between lifting chains and the load.
- The injury resulted in amputation at the knuckle of the operative's ring finger and little finger and a laceration to their middle finger.
- The operative had surgery to his injured hand and spent 3 days in hospital. They are now off work recuperating with an investigation underway to determine the cause

Discussion Points:

Everyone involved in this routine lifting task was experienced, trained and competent to undertake the planned works.

- Is there a likelihood that we concentrate less on routine tasks?
- How best can we retain focus to keep us safe during routine tasks?
- Do we always use the most appropriate lifting attachments for the task?
- What actions are needed to ensure that those present during lifting operations are clear of the danger zone or any potential pinch points?
- During lifting operations does everyone involved always communicate effectively before and during the lift?

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Wearing of unapproved Headwear:

- Unapproved headwear reduces your ability to hear or see your surroundings and affect your understanding of critical communication. By wearing unapproved head wear under your safety hard hat you are affecting the fit and level of protection it provides you with. Unapproved headwear will result in a hard hat which cannot be fitted correctly, adjusted or worn to manufacturer's safety requirements by this you are putting yourself and others in danger (i.e. if your hard hat was to fall off at height).



Unapproved



Approved



Unapproved

- The approved alternative are balaclavas, these are especially designed to be worn under the hard hat; the design has perforated ear sections which don't inhibit hearing levels, it does not affect your sight and also allows the hard hat to fit to the head correctly.

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Fuel cube left within 2m of open lines:

- A fuel cube was noticed by a member of staff travelling by train past Goring RRAP in April
- Subsequent investigation found that the fuel cube was left on site following Easter works where it had been placed in position for re-fuelling and remained in situ when the lines re-opened

Causes:

- Fuel level not checked at start of shift
- Fuel hose not long enough or it to be placed further from the track
- Time pressure to handback
- No-one noticed that the cube was there despite multiple people being on site



Discussion Points:

- Who is responsible for making sure all equipment is moved clear of the track prior to handback?
- Is there sufficient time for all activities to be completed safely within the time?
- Do your pre-start checks include fuel levels? What arrangements do you have in place for re-fuelling if needed?

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Member of staff fell down catch pit at Reading – Feeder lines box, Reading

- Whilst walking in the feeder line box area a member of staff stood on a cover and fell in to the catch pit, a fall of 1.8 metres. The catch pit lid was housed within the steel frame above the GRP ring however it was not secure by clips or screws. The lid and catch pit frame were examined following the incident and found to be in good condition.
- The Operative complained of discomfort on the left side of his rib cage and attended hospital. He sustained some bruises to his side and has since been discharged from the hospital.

Remember:

- **All catch pits are to be secure at all times**
- **Always leave worksites safe and take care to re-instate covers correctly**
- **Be careful when walking and choose your route carefully to avoid any potential hazards. Do not step on top of catch pits or pile caps**
- **As with all hazards / unsafe conditions – if you see any that are not secure, please make it safe and raise it as a close call**

Discussion Points:

- What do you do if you see a catch pit either un-covered or with a broken lid?

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Cut Surface Mounted Cable Caused Axle Counter Failure and Delays to Train Services:

- Damage to a 4 core surface laid axle counter cable caused the ENS failure of an axle counter at Reading station.
- The incident wasn't reported at the time the cable was cut which led to unacceptable disruption to the network
- Platforms 10/11 were closed for over three hours resulting in disruption to train passengers and 261 lost train minutes.

Immediate Cause:

- Cable sheath and internal cores of the axle counter cable were cut 6 or 7 times by a rotating or reciprocating metal power tool, most likely during de-vegetation activities.

Lessons Learnt:

- **Cables must be identified prior to de-vegetation**
- **All cables must be marked with a 1m exclusion zone highlighted on both sides**
- **The use of powered metal blade de-veg equipment is prohibited within 1m of any surface mounted cables. Hand tools or plastic bladed tools may be used**
- **Task briefs for de-veg activities must highlight the hazard presented by surface laid cables and include the controls identified above.**

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“Pokémon Go” craze raises safety concerns:

- Pokémon Go is a reality smartphone game which encourages players to catch Pokémon characters by exploring their surroundings using their phones.
- Using the phone's GPS facility players walk around the 'real' world in order to catch virtual Pokémon characters at various landmarks and locations.
- The Police have issued warnings about the dangers of players not being aware of their surroundings; there are already a number of forums online that show injuries obtained whilst playing the game.
- There have been reports of players attending railway stations and level crossings to try and capture the Pokémon characters they believe to be around.
- Players are often so absorbed in the screens of their phones that they fail to appreciate their surroundings and the inherent dangers around them or whether access to an area is restricted.
- **If you see people distracted around level crossings, stations or other railway property or attempting unauthorised access you should warn them of the dangers, and report any uncooperative behaviour to the British Transport Police.**



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Looking after others at work:

- An employee of a contractor had a thumb amputated in an accident at Tufnell Park station, whilst carrying out a lifting operation.
- One of the findings of the investigation was that prior to the lifting operation taking place, the contractor work party were observed by a visiting LU engineer and a manager from another supplier carrying out other tasks in an potentially unsafe manner, and not wearing mandatory personal protective equipment.
- **Neither person raised their concerns with the on-site supervisor, or with the principal contractor's representative. A short time afterwards the employee suffered his injury.**

Remember:

- **We should be looking out for the health and safety of others, and be prepared to raise any concerns where the health and safety of individuals is at risk. This applies whether we are at our normal place of work, or we are visiting a location where others are at work. These concerns should be addressed to the workers involved and their immediate supervisor/manager, so they can take any necessary action. If it appears that this is being ignored the matter should be brought to the attention of your line manager.**

Discussion Point:

- How would you respond if someone raised a Health and Safety issue with you?

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Signal Post TL0010 Dropped During Lifting Operation:

- A Civils team were deployed to remove a redundant 2.5m high signal post which had been installed as a temporary structure at London Bridge platform 10/11. The signal post was being cut about 1m above the base whilst attached by means of a lifting strap to a Rail Road Vehicle (RRV). The RRV was in place as part of the methodology to lower the load onto a trailer for final dispatch away from site. As the final cut was being made using a hand-held Stihl disc saw, the post under tension became free and moved towards the RRV. The movement resulted in the post falling in an uncontrolled manner onto the track area due to inadequate slinging arrangement. Although the exclusion zone required for the lifting activity was inadequate, there were no injuries sustained.

Discussion Points:

- In a similar situation, what could be done, to prevent this occurring?



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Swindon Area Signalling Renewal Project – Close Call to the Project and Network Rail Fault Control:

- On 24th June 2016 Contractors working on behalf of Alstom on the Swindon Area Signalling Renewal Project correctly reported a Close Call to the project and NR Fault Control. The Palisade Boundary Fence at Rushy Platt on the MLN line was damaged and members of the public etc. could access the Infrastructure.
- An Alstom Team attended the following day to temporarily fix the fence; NR have confirmed that they have undertaken a permanent repair to the fence in response to the Close Call being raised.

Actions:

- If you see something that is a Close Call please report it. Additionally if it is safe to do so and if you are competent please rectify it yourself, even if it's only temporary. In this instance a gap in the boundary fence was left for a further day which may have led to a vandalism or trespass incident, or worse. **The schools will be breaking up soon and sadly every year children are seriously injured or killed on the railway infrastructure.**

Discussion Points:

- Do you know how to report a Close Call?
- Do you know what a Close Call is?
- What might prevent Close Calls being rectified immediately?

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Polite Reminder – Signing in and out with Site Access Controller (SAC's):

- 2 Resourcing Solutions Candidates recently returned home from a site without signing out with the Site Access Controller. The individuals still had site property in their possession which had to subsequently be tracked down, and considerable time was wasted trying to locate their whereabouts.

It is imperative that you ALWAYS sign in and out of site with the Site Access Controller at all times.

Implications:

- Breach of site Rules/Safety
- Loss of credibility for Resourcing Solutions candidates
- Inconvenience to the client due to missing property
- Timesheet Queries

Purpose of Site Access Controller:

- Sentinel Authentication and competency checks
- PPE inspections/issue
- Site property allocation/Paperwork issue/return
- Travel times to and from site – Fatigue monitoring
- Inductions/swabs
- Personnel whereabouts in case of an Accident/Incident
- Timesheet verification – you may not get paid if SAC and Timesheet do not match

Join us on Facebook



facebook

We recently launched a dedicated Facebook group to allow our workers to come together and discuss health and safety matters.

We will be posting regular content such as briefings, policy reminders and important safety updates along with what we are up to.

We would appreciate your input and if you would like to join the group please click on the logo below.





“Think Safe, Act Safe and Be Safe”

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