

Vegetation encroachment on overhead line equipment

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRA 18/11

Date of issue: 10/07/2018

Location: Network-wide

Contact: [Philip Doughty](#), Professional Head of Contact Systems



Overview

Over the past 12 months there has been an increase in the number of overhead line equipment safety related events resulting from vegetation encroachment.

Vegetation related overhead line equipment safety related events equate for greater than 10% of all mechanical and electrical safety related reports.

The most recent event was at Dutton Viaduct, on the London North Western Route, where vegetation was in contact with the return conductor.

This resulted in the return conductor parting and a lineside fire causing significant damage to the S&T location cabinets in the area.

Immediate action required

- Vegetation within 2.75m of Overhead Line Equipment shall be recorded and managed as a defect in accordance with NR/L2/ELP/21087.
- Vegetation within 1.0m shall be treated as a critical defect.
- Where vegetation defects cannot be managed in accordance with NR/L2/ELP/21087 then a Temporary Variation is required against the standard and safety mitigation measures are to be implemented.
- Vegetation management during nesting period shall follow [Safety Advice NRA 18/08](#).

Copies of Safety Advice are available on [Safety Central](#).