

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Runaway trolley

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

Ref: NRB 17/15

Date of issue: 04/08/2017

Location: Baschurch, Shropshire

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Overview

On 23 July 2017, as part of the North-South Wales Projects, a type B trolley was being used to carry tools and equipment approximately half a mile back to Leasows Yard after the recovery of old insulated block joints (IBJs).

The initial report indicates that the trackman pushing the trolley lost his grip on the trolley as it began to increase speed while descending a gradient.

The handle used on the trolley was from a track jack and not the correct handle for the trolley and it is thought that the handle is of sufficient weight to prevent it returning to the vertical position when released, as it should to activate the brakes.

Nobody was injured but the trolley travelled over a mile before coming to rest. The project has halted all works with on-track trolleys until the investigation is complete and the cause is fully understood.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team.

- Is the use of a track trolley the most suitable equipment for the task being undertaken?
- Have you ensured that any trolley being used complies with NR/L2/RMVP/0200/ module P513 (Issue 3)?
- How do you make sure that you always use equipment that is fit for its intended purpose?
- How do you load trolleys and how would you know if it is overloaded?
- How do we plan to make sure there are sufficient people on site to manage a loaded trolley?
- Do all trolley operators fully understand their duties and what checks they must make before setting off?

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