

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Making the safest decisions

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

Ref: NRB 16/08

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Location: Highams Park and Wanstead Park, Anglia

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Arial view of Highams Park

Overview

Two near misses in Anglia highlight the risks of not making the safest decisions.

On 14 March 2016 two track workers had a near miss with a LOROL train service from Liverpool Street to Chingford at Highams Park.

Initial investigation shows the SSOW pack did not cover the walking element to and from the site of work and an access point different to the access point that was being used. The team also were not using the safest means of crossing the track as there was a footbridge at the station.

Additionally the COSS stated they assumed, from previous experience, that all trains would stop at the station.

On 22 March 2016 two trackworkers had a near miss with a Dagenham Dock to Acton Yard freight service whilst undertaking patrolling at Wanstead Park.

The workers took two planned line blockages at Leytonstone High Road to walk through the viaducts due to poor sighting distance and only having one lookout.

As they approached Wanstead the two trackworkers decided not to take their third planned line blockage to get past a Red Zone Prohibited section, resulting in them walking through a limited clearance longitudinal bridge as a freight train approached on the same road, forcing the two staff to run to a place of safety.

Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of these incidents please discuss the following with your teams:

- Could this happen to you?
- Do you always use the safest option available in the work you do?
- What might stop you taking the safest option, and what could you do about that?
- Do you make assumptions, for example on the train service?
- What would you do if your safety system of work does not cover your access and egress?
- What would you do differently to help prevent something similar happening to you or your colleagues?

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