

## Burns after petrol spill while refuelling

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

Ref: NRB19-21

Date of issue: 23/12/2019

Location: Mountfield Sidings, Kent, Southern Region



### Overview

A serious staff accident occurred on Sunday 1st December when one of our colleagues was working in Mountfield sidings replacing a crossing. The injured person suffered burns to his right leg and hands, and was taken by ambulance to the hospital directly from the site of work.

The injured person refuelled the disc saw at the refuelling location a distance away from where the work was being undertaken. He then came back to the site of work and told his Team Leader he could not do the cut as he had spilt fuel on his trousers.

The Team Leader started the next cut when the ground suddenly caught light next to where the cut was happening. The injured person stepped in to help stamp out the flames and his trousers also caught alight. He tried to put the flames out his hands and was pushed to the ground by other members of staff to help put the flames out.

The investigation is currently ongoing, but we would like to issue a few immediate reminders.

### Discussion Points

- Are you familiar with company Risk Assessments and Task Risk Control Sheets: Re-fuelling; Decanting Fuel and Fuelling Small Plant? (NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GHE05, NR/L3/MTC/RC0216/GA17).
- Always make sure your refuelling location is at least 10 metres away from any work site, other machines or naked flames.
- Always make sure to have a suitable first aid kit on site i.e. including burns kit.
- Take the plant to the fuelling point and not the fuel to the plant.
- Avoid spilling any fuel over the machine / container, if spilling occurs: wipe off the excess fuel; dispose of any rags as hazardous waste (keeping them apart from any ignition sources); leave the machine for two minutes before starting it up.
- If fuel is splashed/spilled onto clothing, remove and replace that clothing and clean affected skin immediately.
- Decant / re-fuel machines from the container using a flexible spout or funnel - DO NOT fill / decant direct from the container.
- Always think about your own safety before helping others.