

Safety Bulletin



Upper Body Burns during Weld Cutting Activities

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

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Location: Shipley Train Depot (New Development)

Contact: [Craig Perry, Head of Health, Safety, Wellbeing and Security, TransPennine Route Upgrade](#)



Overview

On Tuesday, 13 October 2025 at 08:50, a welder at the Shipley Train Depot development suffered burns to their upper body during cutting works taking place on sheet piling as part of the TransPennine Route Upgrade, for a new train maintenance facility.

An operative was undertaking planned activities on a retaining wall, carrying out cutting using burning equipment. During this activity the individuals clothing has ignited with the individual sustaining burns to his upper body. The individual was treated onsite by first aiders then transported to Leeds hospital, before being transferred to Wakefield for ongoing treatment.

This incident is currently under investigation, however while the facts are being established, please use the bullet points to discuss the importance of wearing and maintaining PPE correctly.

Discussion points

Personal Protective Equipment discussions

- **Ensure** that PPE is clean, suitably maintained, and has the correct coatings applied as and when required in line with manufacturer's instructions.
- **Ensure** all PPE is Fully Fastened to provide full-body protection.
- **Ensure** boots, gloves, eye protection, hard hats or any additional PPE is worn as required.
- **Consider** wearing appropriate undergarments such as 100 % cotton which has natural fire resisting properties.
- **Always** Quarantine any defective PPE until it has been suitably repaired or replaced.
- **Avoid** wearing synthetic (e.g. polyester) clothing under PPE as this can quickly catch fire and spread rapidly.

Procedural discussions

- Are individuals completing thorough pre-use checks of all equipment to check for defects?
- Are Hot Work Permits being completed thoroughly and are all controls measures being followed?
- Are people aware of how to respond in an emergency? Is the correct equipment available and close to the work site?
- How do we challenge unsafe practices?