

Safety Bulletin



everyone
home safe
every day

Fire involving On Track Plant in a tunnel environment

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

Ref: NRB26-01

Date of issue: 11/03/2026

Location: Standedge Tunnel

Contact: [John Watt Principal Engineer \(Plant\)](#),
Technical Authority



Overview

On 25 January 2026, a fire involving a Colmar T10000 Road Rail Vehicle occurred in Standedge Tunnel. A Level 2 investigation is under way to understand the root cause and identify any lessons we need to apply. In the meantime, we must stay focused on the fundamentals.

Plant and equipment must always be operated in line with the Original Equipment Manufacturer's instructions, the Engineering Conformance Certificate and Product Acceptance conditions. Equipment must be within its maintenance periodicity, have a valid ECC and have completed a pre-use Pre-Delivery Inspection.

Operating Plant equipment can create safety risks for colleagues and infrastructure; this can be more prevalent when work in enclosed spaces such as tunnels.

At the planning stage we must carry out a risk assessment, identifying the specific hazards of the task and the controls required. These controls must be properly briefed so everyone understands not just what to do, but why it matters.

Discussion points

- Have we carried out a risk assessment to spot the hazards and put the right controls in place (in accordance with NR/L2/RMVP/0200/P102? Have we briefed everyone on it?
- Is the plant up to date with maintenance and does it have a valid ECC?
- Have we completed a pre-use inspection?
- Do we have a clear evacuation plan if something goes wrong, like a fire or build-up of fumes? Does it show the safest way to remove the equipment?
- Has everyone been briefed on the emergency plan and do they know what to do?
- Do we have the right first aid and fire-fighting equipment on site?
- Have we agreed clear and reliable ways to communicate during the work?

Part of our group
of Safety Bulletins

Safety
Alert

Safety
Bulletin

Safety
Advice

Shared
Learning