

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Safe use of devices on or near the line

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

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Location: National

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Overview

On Tuesday 16th June, two track workers were undertaking an unauthorised survey of the trackside vegetation on the west coast main line between Cheddington and Bletchley stations. The workers were using Go-Pros to record vegetation as they walked the infrastructure. At 16:28 hrs the driver of a northbound train passing Leighton Buzzard station at 125 mph (200 km/h) observed a person standing next to the line in a place where clearance was limited by the structure of an over bridge.

The driver sounded the train's horn and observed the person move swiftly out of the way, but not to a defined position of safety, around one second before the train reached him.

RAIB released a [Safety Digest](#) and specifically highlighted how this incident demonstrates the importance of staff not becoming distracted by electronic devices while on or near the line.

Immediate action required

- Any items you carry while walking must not affect your ability to walk safely or to see or hear and acknowledge approaching trains.
- Before you go on or near the line alone, you must know your place of safety.
- If you have to use a mobile device, first move to a position of safety and then stand still until you have finished using the device.

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