

# Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



## Contact with Overhead Line Equipment (OLE) – serious injury

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

Ref: NRB19-22

Date of issue: 27/12/2019

Location: Kensal Green, Western Route



## Overview

At approximately 23.00 on Christmas night, a worker in a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) basket came into contact with live OLE in a worksite. He suffered serious burns and is now in hospital in a stable condition.

Early investigation has revealed that the task was part of a longer snagging list from the Crossrail project. While the MEWP was on a line below isolated OLE, the basket was moved across the adjacent lines towards energised overhead lines to adjust a dropper. At that part of the worksite, the isolation limits were staggered and the adjacent lines were still live. The isolation limits were not specifically marked in the worksite.

The task briefing covered a large amount of work over several shifts during the possession. The activities were a continuation of planned work from the previous shift.

Not all team members were familiar with the area and the Machine Controller did not have the Safe Work Pack a shift in advance.

## Discussion Points

- Are your task briefings sufficiently clear and concise to enable workers to be clear what their work is that shift?
- How do you clearly identify/mark the limits of isolations, particularly where limits overlap and adjacent lines remain live?
- Are all the roles clear on your site – could there be confusion about who is the Person In Charge?
- Make sure everyone is aware of the work safe procedure.
- When you use 'Take-5', how do you challenge assumptions to avoid repeating an earlier error?
- How and where do you test before you touch electrification assets?