



Collision between a train and lorry stabiliser leg

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

Ref: NRL22-01

Date of issue: 15/02/2022

Location: Penistone, South Yorkshire

Contact: [Investigations and Assurance inbox](#)



Overview

At 08.32 on 27 August 2021 in Penistone, South Yorkshire, a lorry arrived to remove portable toilet units that had been onsite throughout a track renewal project. The driver, who did not have track safety competence, was let into site and parked close to the open line.

The stabiliser legs were positioned to enable the driver to use the crane. As the removal of the toilet units was underway, an approaching train struck the lorry's nearside stabiliser leg. This leg had been positioned within half a metre of the open line.

Underlying causes

- The welfare unit subcontractor was working within the 'on or near the line' area with no COSS present on site.
- No risk assessment for working near to open lines was carried out by the principal contractor.
- The method statement made no mention of working near railways and did not specify what levels of supervision, experience or competence would be required.
- The principal contractor's procedure for managing site visitors was not followed. This stated that all visitors to its sites must sign in, wear appropriate PPE, be given a visitor's induction and always be accompanied by a fully inducted person. Visitors entering the 'on or near the line' area must hold the PTS competency or complete a medical self-assessment and obtain a track visitor permit. None of these procedures were undertaken.

Key message

- Companies which work within the railway boundary must manage and supervise lineside visitors.
- This is just as important when sites are being set up or shut down, or on other occasions when supervisory staff are less likely to be present
- Companies must clearly understand the requirements for when road vehicles are to be brought within the railway boundary.
- There must be an appropriate safe system of work, and staff with the required competencies.