

No: IGS 218

## Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

### Track Worker Fatality – Whitehall West Junction near Leeds Station

**This bulletin is for the attention of:**

- All Line Managers, Project Managers and Work Planners involved in the management, planning, supervision and implementation of safe systems of work.
- All Contractors who supply staff or relevant services to Network Rail.
- All NCCA Card holders particularly those with COSS and Lookout competence.

**Background:**

A track team from Leeds Delivery Unit were performing routine maintenance work at Whitehall West junction close to Leeds Station on the morning of the 2nd December 2009.

**The Safe System of Work being used was Red Zone with unassisted Lookout.**

One site and two distant Lookouts were posted to provide warning from either direction.

The team had been working for approximately 1 hour when one member who was a distant Lookout was struck by a train. He sustained serious injuries and sadly died a short time later. A Formal Investigation is underway.

**Action Required:**

All staff are reminded of the following:

1. **Nothing is more important than your safety**
2. **All staff** shall respond to an audible train warning by acknowledging the warning; you must raise one arm above your head and immediately move to a position of safety clear of any line on which trains may approach. This is especially important in junction areas where trains can be signalled over many different routes.
3. Any member of staff who is acting as **an intermediate or distance Lookout** must be located in a position of safety.
4. **A COSS** must arrange for a test warning to be given to test the effectiveness of the SSOW, regularly review the arrangements and change the SSOW if necessary.

Further safety controls are detailed in NR/L3/MTC/0001/GA002 (issue 3) - Working in a Red Zone.

**Briefing Arrangements:**

All Maintenance teams are required to stand down at the beginning of their next shift so that they can receive a briefing on the key issues above and review the Risk Control Sheet for Red Zone Working. NDS staff and Infrastructure Project Contractors will be briefed as soon as practicable.