

26 June 2013

No: NRS 289

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Double fatal accident whilst driving home

For the attention of: All railway industry staff.

Background:

It is with great sadness that we learnt last week that two of our colleagues were involved in a fatal road traffic accident on the morning of Wednesday 19 June 2013 after the vehicle they were the sole occupants of collided with a stationary flat-bed articulated lorry which was parked in a lay-by on the A1 near Newark, Nottinghamshire. The collision resulted in a serious fire.

The two welders had been undertaking work at Langley Junction on LNE Route Tuesday night/Wednesday morning and were returning home. It was at around lunchtime on Tuesday when they had been asked to work that night.



Initial investigation:

The investigations into the event are in their early stages so it is not possible to identify the causes of the accident. We should however take the time to think about and discuss some of the key risks associated generally with driving and transporting hazardous materials and what can be done to control these risks.

Action required:

Discuss with your colleagues what can be done to manage risks associated with driving:

- Does your organisation have 'lifesaving rules' and how can these help manage driving risk, for example:
 - Always wear a seat belt while in a moving vehicle and always obey the speed limit
 - Never use a hand-held device or programme any hands-free device while you are driving a road vehicle
- Condition of your vehicle - How would you check your vehicle is safe to use for the job you are doing? What would you do if you found a defect?
- Tiredness - Has fatigue or tiredness affected you whilst driving? What would you do if you didn't have sufficient rest before a shift? What can you do to reduce the likelihood of fatigue? What can you do if you begin to feel sleepy whilst driving?
- Transporting hazardous substances - How can hazardous substances like gas cylinders, petrol or fog signals be safely transported? How can a tidy van help reduce the seriousness of accidents?
- Planning work – If you are responsible for planning work, what steps can you build into your plan to keep people safe as they travel to and from the work site?
- Engaging with labour suppliers – If you are responsible for managing contractors, what steps can you take to ensure that we give sufficient time for the contractor/labour supplier to arrange the people required?

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