

Date 20th February 2014

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

NRS 311 - Staff injury near Cardiff, 17th February 2014



3-tonne trailer dropped from crane



Failed lifting strop

A rail plant haulage contractor collecting rail trailers and other plant from an access point at Lisvane on the Cardiff/Rhymney Line was seriously injured when a lifting accessory failed.

The lifting sling used to suspend the trailer from the lifting hook of the lorry crane failed catastrophically, dropping the load, which then fell towards the operative, striking his upper body and forcing him to the ground. He was working alone and was trapped. The driver of a passing train made an emergency call and stopped to help.

Immediate checks have found that inappropriate lifting accessories are in wider use. An Investigation is underway and learning that emerges will be shared promptly.

Immediate action required by all Principal Contractors, plant hire hauliers and Network Rail staff involved with loading:

Check that all lifting accessories have an in-date test certificate, or tag / label confirming an in date inspection

Quarantine any lifting accessories which do not have current certification or which appear damaged in any way

Plan and agree all lineside plant deliveries/collections in advance. All plans must take account of LOLER, adjacent open lines, working at height and lone worker risks

Principal Contractors should spot check plant haulage and loading as part of an effective assurance regime