

# Safety Bulletin

*A serious incident has taken place*

## Welding equipment explosion

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

**Ref:** NRB 15/07

**Date of issue:** 31/03/2015

**Location:** Walton on Thames

**Contact:** [Priti Patel](#), Route Head of Safety, Health and Environment



Damage to lineside neighbour's house

## Overview

On the morning of Thursday 26 March a lineside fire was reported between Weybridge and Walton on Thames.

Initial investigations indicate re-railing had taken place overnight in the area.

Following completion of the works welding equipment was left track side (although not close to the line) covered by a tarpaulin.

Underneath the tarpaulin were generators, igniters, propane and oxygen cylinders which were stored on their side.

The fire caused the gas cylinders to explode with sufficient force to propel the oxygen cylinder 150 metres, over a lineside neighbour's house.

A trolley wheel was propelled through the French window of the house, into their kitchen.

## Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- What fire risks exist in your workplace?
- What can you do to better manage these risks?
- How do you safely store and transport hazardous materials?
- What 'hot work' do you do that needs particular care?
- What can you do to better manage the safety of compressed gasses where used as part of your work?