

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Noxious fumes from Ford staff messing vehicle

Issued to: Network Rail line managers
Ref: NRA 15/04
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Location: Stevenage
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Overview

On 5 May 2015 a driver of a Network Rail Ford messing vehicle felt light headed and attended hospital as a result of breathing in fumes and/or gases that had been produced by the overheating of the vehicle's leisure battery.

NSC's Road Fleet department has commenced a programme of booking in over 2000 vehicles in order to have the auxiliary leisure battery replaced.

You will be contacted by BT Fleet to make the booking. The replacement programme is due to complete in October this year, but if you require a more urgent booking please contact NSCRoadFleet@networkrail.co.uk.

Immediate action required

Line Managers are required to brief drivers of Network Rail Ford messing vehicles on the following:

- Auxiliary leisure batteries should be isolated when not in use.
- If you identify a smell whilst driving, pull over in a safe, legal place and turn off the ignition (do not re-start the engine or turn on the ignition).
- Use the dash mounted 'vehicle isolator' switch (as pictured above) to isolate the welfare facility power.
- DO NOT re-set the switch again to restore power to the welfare facilities.
- Ventilate the area fully, opening windows and doors safely, and do not re-enter the vehicle.
- Contact the breakdown recovery service on 0845 600 6767, option 2, and arrange recovery to a safe location. At the same time arrangements will be made to book the vehicle into a garage for the battery to be replaced.