

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Uncontrolled discharge of pressurised systems

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers and Achilles registered contractors

Ref: NRB 15/17

Date of issue: 30/11/2015

Location: Didcot

Contact: [Simon Gyde](#), Route Asset Manager (Buildings)



Sainsbury's coffee machine injures 7 people

Overview

On 6 May 2015 at Didcot, a telecommunications facility gaseous fire suppression system was inadvertently activated during replacement of the fire alarm panel.

ORR served an Improvement Notice on Network Rail for non-compliance with the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the [Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 \(PSSR 2000\)](#).

As a result of the incident an Operational Property National Action Plan has been created to ensure compliance with PSSR 2000.

The regulations apply to a wide range of systems and this risk was highlighted recently when Sainsbury's were prosecuted after a coffee machine exploded in a store injuring seven people.

We need your support in identifying equipment so that we can gain compliance to the regulations, in particular in locations such as station premises and office canteens where items such as gas canisters attached to pipework through to coffee machines need to be identified.

Discussion Points

Please discuss the following with your teams:

- A pressure system that falls under the regulation is one that contains the 'relevant fluid' defined as:
 - A gas >0.5 bar
 - Steam
 - Liquefied Gas
- Do you know whether you are accountable or responsible for compliance with the PSSR 2000?
- If you are accountable for any of the systems in the list to the right how do you ensure compliance with the PSSR 2000?
- You may be responsible for a pressure system if you manage any of the following in this non-exhaustive list:
 - Fire Suppression Systems
 - Refrigeration systems including air conditioning
 - Sealed hot water heating systems with pressurisation units
 - Compressed air systems
 - Hydraulic systems (wheel lathe/passenger/goods lift, etc.
 - Coffee machines/tea boilers

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