

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

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Incident Date / Time: 17th March 2013 / 00:32hrs
Location: Bonnybridge, Falkirk, Scotland.
Works Taking Place / Incident Type: Bridge replacement / Incident
Issued By: Rodger Querns, Programme Director, EGIP
Project Name / Number: Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP), 102090
For the attention of: All Scotland and North East

Description of incident

A low-loader attempting to make a delivery to the project site came into contact with the parapet wall of the road bridge causing part of the wall to become dislodged and fall to the tracks below. At the time of the incident the agent for the Principal Contractor was not aware whether a planned possession had been granted. The agent phoned the signal box and was informed by the signaller that no trains were running and that he had already granted the PICOP permission to lay his protection. The low-loader was removed from the bridge and debris cleared from both tracks.

CAUSES

The documented traffic management identifies the safe access for delivery across the west elevation of this particular bridge, unfortunately this was not followed and the delivery driver was given an instruction to access from the east elevation.

Due to the nature of the delivery and the access arrangements the delivery driver should have been given clear instruction and assistance from the Principal Contractor, instead he was left unattended with no assistance when crossing the bridge.

Two contributing factors were; the lighting on the bridge, as it had not been fully set up and a trail hole that had been excavated on the east elevation of the bridge, causing the crossing to be more difficult than normal.

The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement the following;

1. Check Principal Contractors' compliance with traffic management plans
2. Review the Principal Contractors' access arrangements for deliveries these should include supervision, briefing, instruction, lighting, obstructions, traffic flows and banksmen etc.

