

EVENT LEARNING

Safety & Sustainable Development

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Incident Date / Time: 09th June 2014, 1030 hours
Location: Borders Railway Project, UB094 Wheatlands Road / Galashiels
Works Taking Place / Incident Type: Working on New Rail Underbridge over Wheatlands Road
Issued By: Safety & Sustainable Development Department
Project Name / Number: Borders Railway Project / 129713
For the attention of: All Scotland and North East

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

During a routine safety inspection, two pieces of poorly maintained power tools were found on site. In addition, the poorly maintained tools were being used on top of a bridge structure which, due to recent heavy rain showers, the work area was extremely wet in places. The principal contractor's foreman immediately acted on this information. The sub-contractor was instructed to remove the items from site and, going forward, all power tools are to be checked daily prior to use.

CAUSES

- The root cause of this incident was the apparent absence of daily checks for power tools used on site and ensuring that they are fit for purpose.



The tools were not only poorly maintained but were exposed on an open bridge in wet conditions.

The reader is required to take action where appropriate to implement and/or facilitate the following:

- Principal Contractors should be able to demonstrate that all small plant / power tools are checked by competent operators on a daily basis prior to use.
- Small plant / power tools that are found to be unsafe or faulty should be immediately removed from service.
- All small plant / power tools on site must be regularly maintained and clearly labelled to show when it is due inspection.



Never undertake an activity unless you have been trained, assessed as competent and have the right equipment.