

Date: 27th April 2014

Issued By: Thameslink Programme, HSEA Team, James Forbes House, 27 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0NS

Issue Number: TLP 020**Title: London Bridge Station Redevelopment, Fall from Height (6th Feb 2014)**

For further information contact Sharon Fink, Health & Safety Manager, London Bridge, sharon.fink@networkrail.co.uk

Overview of Event:

During cable testing works an electrician stepped backwards off a podium step and through an open access hatch on the floor in a switch room. He fell approximately 2 metres in total, sustaining bruising to his leg and pain in his lower back. As he fell he knocked another operative who also sustained some minor injuries.

Photo: Access hatch in floor and podium steps**Underlying Causes:**

There are a number of underlying factors that contributed to the accident:-

- Lack of communication between the two work parties
- An inadequate safe system of work i.e. no permit to enter the room in operation, barriers or exclusion zones around the pit were not set up
- Lack of sufficient supervision for the shift to cover all work groups and work activities
- Poor planning and coordination by the management team who did not recognise a clash of work activity in the same location

Key Messages:

- **Barriers:** It is critical that open holes are barriered off to prevent access and have appropriate warning signs
- **Work off podiums:** It is imperative that podium gates are closed whilst people are working off these access platforms
- **Position of access platforms:** Prior to commencing works off access platforms teams should satisfy themselves that the area around these are free from hazards such as open access chambers
- **Co-ordination / Communication:** Supervisors responsible for the works should make sure they consider transfer of risks from one activity to another and where more than one supervisor is involved then adequate co-ordination arrangements should be in place
- **Sub contractor notification of accidents to PC:** arrangements should be in place for all sub contractors to report accidents to the PC