

Safety Hour Discussion Pack

Topic: Control risks – on track plant and communication

Purpose of the discussion:

To consider the impact of not having the right controls in place when work with on track plant, and the importance of communication between colleagues to ensure the safety of ourselves and others.

Duplex communications are a requirement when working with on track plant.

In September 2010, a machine operator, reversed over his machine controller due to a miscommunication. It was only the two of them out on site at the time. At the time Duplex communications weren't mandated, and exclusion zones and the AskB4Upass Lifesaving Rule were not in place.

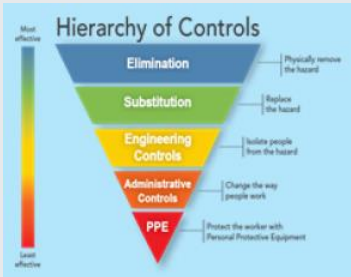
Do we have the right controls in place on our worksite?

Discussion points: Use below to plan your facilitated discussion. Remember, you don't have to have all the answers – the role of the facilitator is to create an engaging discussion where everyone identifies and commits to solutions.

Discussion points	Supporting notes
<p>What controls are planned into our jobs? Are these enough?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A duplex comms a voice communication systems to be provided for the machine operator and machine controller • Work should meet environmental requirements of Network Rail standards and any other applicable mandatory or statutory requirements as appropriate <p>Controls should be considered as part of the planning process to make sure duplex comms are provided, there are enough team members to complete work, and the team are confident the job completed safely.</p> <p>If you don't think a job is safe – challenge and stop the work.</p>
<p>Have you ever questioned the controls in place on your worksite?</p>	<p>How did you raise these questions? How were they received by your team?</p> <p>When could you challenge the controls if you don't think they are sufficient?</p> <p>It is always better to discuss the controls prior to work beginning, this could be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of plans prior to job starting • Ask to see the duplex comms to check they are working and fully charged before work begins <p>Should work have already began, you can evoke the Worksafe procedure.</p>

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<p>What should we do if the Duplex comms systems fails?</p>	<p>Work should not start if there is not a Duplex comms system in place, or the system is faulty.</p> <p>You should</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check your kit regularly and charge fully before getting to site • Have a back-up set on site • If alternative equipment is not available, agree an alternative safe system of work • This failure should be recorded on the OTP work plan – what was the failure? What was the resolution? • It should be raised as a Close Call
<p>What can we do to make sure an incident is not repeated?</p>  <p>The diagram shows a pyramid with five levels from top to bottom: Elimination (blue), Substitution (green), Engineering Controls (yellow), Administrative Controls (orange), and PPE (red). To the left is a vertical color scale from red (least effective) to blue (most effective). To the right of the pyramid are descriptions for each level: Elimination (Physically remove the hazard), Substitution (Replace the hazard), Engineering Controls (Isolate people from the hazard), Administrative Controls (Change the way people work), and PPE (Protect the worker with Personal Protective Equipment).</p>	<p>We must learn from past incidents and share this learning with each other.</p> <p>Considerations could be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchy of controls in line with CDM (diagram to the left) • Always ensure safety is the main priority • Plan enough time for a job so it is not rushed • Make sure every team member is clear on their role and responsibility • Challenge unsafe situations • Awareness of emergency procedures should something happen

For further information:

Visit Safety Central for more information about On Track Plant safety - <https://safety.networkrail.co.uk/safety/on-track-plant-safety/>

Visit Safety Central for more information on Road Rail Vehicle Duplex Communications - <https://safety.networkrail.co.uk/safety/on-track-plant-safety/rrv-communication/>

Watch a video on how to set up duplex comms properly, which includes exclusion zones etc. - https://safety.networkrail.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/DECT-Comms_v1.1-480p1.wmv