

Smouldering head torch

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

Ref: NRB 17/03

Date of issue: 23/02/2017

Location: IMDM Motherwell area, Scotland Route

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Overview

On Monday 16 January 2017 a member of track staff put their Unilite head torch on charge following completion of their nightshift.

Later that afternoon the member of staff discovered the head torch smouldering whilst charging.

The member of staff switched off the power, removed the plug from the wall socket then removed the cable from the USB charging socket on the head torch.

The head torch and charging equipment were returned to the manufacturer for investigation.

This investigation flagged up that the head torch was being charged with a non-standard (not the manufacturer's) micro USB cable.

The cable shorted and started to smoulder but luckily the circuit protection on the head torch avoided the battery from overheating which is why only the outer casing showed signs of burning.

Discussion Points

Please discuss the following with your team:

- How do you check that you are using the manufacturer's equipment to charge your devices?
- What would you do if you did not have the correct equipment to charge your devices?
- How do you check your cables for defects prior to use?

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