

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



Deliberate safety and security incidents

Scope: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors**

Ref: NRX19-03

Date: 09/05/2019

Location: National

Contact: Group Security, Safety Technical and Engineering
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Overview

Two incidents took place on 08/05/2019 that are being treated as malicious with intent to cause disruption and harm to railway safety.

At 06:29 a train struck an abandoned vehicle on the Morris Cowley Branch Line near Kennington Jn, Oxford. Fortunately the crew were uninjured and the train was not damaged. The abandoned vehicle, was removed and possession of the line returned at 15:55 with the train able to continue.

At 16:17 the driver of another train on the same line reports striking a 6 metre (20ft) length of rail deliberately placed across the line near the location where the vehicle had been abandoned. The rail was pushed aside, with no harm to the crew and no damage to the locomotive, which was able to proceed. The rail was deliberately levered onto the line shortly after the train that struck the abandoned vehicle had moved off. British Transport Police (BTP) are investigating but it is yet known if the incidents are linked.

Malicious obstructions

Fortunately on this occasion no one was harmed. However, the obstructions were intended to disrupt rail operations and these incidents may have had very different outcomes. Placing objects on the line has clear safety consequences for rail passengers, train crews, our colleagues attending such incidents and to the individuals committing the criminal and malicious act.

Key Messages

We are all responsible for maintaining the safety and security of the railway. Access points, equipment and materials must be properly secured during works with lineside scrap and unused materials removed on completion. Guidance can be found in Task Risk Control sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/GA25.

Further information on Railway security, including the HOT and WHAT protocols, is available on [Safety Central](#).

Malicious obstructions, unusual objects or obvious signs of trespass (damaged fences well-trodden paths, criminal damage etc.) must be reported. Colleagues should be alert and look for unusual activity or behaviour.

Colleagues working on the infrastructure should:

- Challenge anyone on or around the railway who you believe should not be there and report such incidents to BTP and route control.
- If you believe you may be in danger maintain a safe distance or leave the area and call the Police.
- Look out for obvious signs of trespass and unauthorised access.
- Apply the HOT and WHAT protocols.

Finding obstructions:

- If you see any object on the track that that should not be there and has the potential to cause a safety incident follow normal safety protocol to stop trains safely and have the object removed.
- If you see any object near the track that could be used maliciously against trains and it cannot be removed immediately report it to route control or via the close call system if it not an emergency.

During Engineering work:

- Access points, equipment and materials must be properly secured during and after work.
- Lineside scrap and unused materials must be secured or removed on completion.

Download the Network Rail Be Aware App for further guidance.