

Network Rail chainsaw incidents

11 January 2021

Overview

The days are short. It's cold, wet and often windy. The work we do is necessary and important... and can be dangerous.

Everyone involved in vegetation management is asked to take an hour away from their tasks to discuss three very serious incidents that have happened in recent weeks. Four front line staff have been injured.

Whether you let contracts, risk assess the task, use a chainsaw or do assurance visits...we all have a part to play.

- **What does Network Rail's safety vision mean for you?**
- **Think about each incident and discuss how you will prevent another.**
- **Take the time to reflect on your own tasks ensure that they are safe.**

All the incidents here have happened in recent weeks.

STOP, THINK and TALK

Lost control of tracked chipper on embankment at Maidenhead.

Two people hurt: crushed chest and broken ankle.

Shortcut used was not in the Work Package Plan



Chainsaw kick-back at Truro.

Nasty neck injury needing nine stitches.

Chainsaw snagged on fence wire in undergrowth.

The right tool for the task?



Tree felling at Llanfairfechan.

Helmet dislodged and open head wound.

The person hurt was less than two tree lengths away. The tree being felled changed direction when branches caught on another.

How do you check everyone on site knows the basic rules?

Network Rail

Safety

Everyone Home Safe Every Day

Our vision

There is no choice to be made between safety and reliability. World-class railways deliver both, day in, day out.

Our belief

Whether you are an employee, contractor or subcontractor, by delivering on our commitments we will achieve safe and outstanding performance. This is key to providing passengers and freight users with the safe, reliable and efficient railway they deserve.

Our personal commitments

- Safe behaviour is a requirement of working for Network Rail.
- We will always comply with our Lifestaving Rules.
- We will plan work to ensure that it can be done safely.
- Our work environments will be tidy – and we will leave them tidy when we've finished.
- We will ensure people have the skills and the equipment required to work safely.
- We will stop work if it cannot be done safely.
- We will personally intervene if we feel a situation or behaviour might be unsafe.

- We will use Close Calls to report unsafe behaviours and conditions.
- We will use our Fair Culture principles to investigate incidents and learn lessons to prevent them occurring again.
- We will relentlessly strive to find new ways to keep ourselves, colleagues, passengers and the public safe.
- We will design, construct, inspect, operate and maintain the railway to keep everyone safe.
- Safety leadership is key to how we assess our people's performance and readiness for progression.

Andrew Haines
Chief executive

everyone home safe every day

• We will plan work to ensure that it can be done safely.

Ask yourself...

- Can you be sure the work will be safe?
- What will you do to avoid the next one being you?

• We will stop work if it cannot be done safely.
• We will personally intervene if we feel a situation or behaviour might be unsafe.

- Always report close calls.
- Use the Worksafe Procedure.



CloseCall



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