

Safety Alert Number **242** issue **24.09.2013**

Rail Disc Saw – Important Information

A recent serious accident in the Renewals Business has raised concerns in respect to the safe operation of Rail Disc Saws and other small plant on site.

Although the event investigation is not yet concluded, several key learning point can now be shared and should be briefed, without delay, to all track staff, site access controllers, site management and small plant teams:

- When using a Rail Disc Saw the risk of ‘kick back’ must be taken into account. ‘Kick back’ is a term that is used to describe a disc saw suddenly moving upwards when the rotating disc becomes trapped by the rail that is being cut.
- There is an increased risk of “kick back” when the rail that is being cut is not correctly supported. The head of the rail should be in tension to minimise the risk.
- To ensure that ‘kick back’ does not cause injury, operators must always follow their ‘small tool’ training and only operate Rail Disc Saws as instructed. Operators should not lean over the saw during cutting operations.
- Underfoot conditions should be suitable and safe to carry out the task
- Task Managers must verify small tools competence ahead of putting staff to work

REMEMBER:

WORKPLACE PLANT AND EQUIPMENT MUST ONLY BE OPERATED BY FULLY TRAINED AND COMPETENT STAFF



No Brief Required		ALL Employees		Signed attendance sheets req?	x	Brief By: 25.10.13
Managers Only		Disciplines affected	x	Holders of track certs NWR/LU		For display until: 24.10.13
Sub-Contractors	x	Alliance/JV Partners	x	Distribution date: 24.09.2013		