

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Missing or ineffective drainage covers

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

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Contact: [Mona Sihota](#), Head of Drainage



Overview

On average 15 people a year report an injury due to missing or ineffective drainage covers. Injuries include cuts, bruises and broken bones. Based on feedback from depots and project teams, the number of injuries attributed to catchpit lids is likely to have been under-estimated

The recorded number of missing drainage covers has been increasing over recent periods. Whilst these pose an immediate threat to the safety of our people, many remain unrectified over a year after identification.

The Drainage Maintenance Standard states that missing or ineffective covers on catchpits and manholes have an immediate remediation for all track categories (refer to NR/L3/CIV/005/3B).

Projects are also reminded that they too must comply with this standard and therefore replace any covers which may have been moved, removed or damaged during enabling works or construction activities.

Discussion Points

- What is preventing replacement of missing or ineffective covers being addressed as soon as possible?
- Replacing missing or ineffective covers is the responsibility of the Maintenance or Project team that has disturbed the covers. But if you see one, what should you do?
- What does this mean for you? Have you been or know anyone injured due to missing cover?
- How would you report a missing or damaged cover? Are all injuries reported?

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