

Dangerous incident involving a lorry mounted crane

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

Ref: NRB 17/21

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Location: Reston, Scotland Route

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Overview

Rolls of geotextile were being delivered for a forthcoming track renewal on the East Coast Main Line at Reston, Berwickshire, using a flatbed lorry with lorry mounted crane. Two members of contractor staff were present: the lorry driver and a Technical Officer involved with the delivery of the core renewal.

The delivery took place within a yard adjacent to the railway, which was open to traffic with the OLE energised. Temporary Heras panel fencing had been erected to prevent staff working in the yard from encroaching upon the running lines.

After offloading, the driver started to stow the crane away in preparation for leaving site. At this point, an apparently uncontrolled extension of the jib took place towards the running lines, immediately followed by the collapse of the jib to the ground. During these uncontrolled movements, the end of the jib snagged the return conductor, dragging it down and damaging a panel of the temporary fence.

Fortunately there were no injuries and only minimal damage to the infrastructure, but there was significant disruption to services on the East Coast Main Line while the crane jib was recovered and staff checked the OLE for damage.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team.

- How do you plan and supervise road deliveries of materials to access points and yards?
- What precautions do you use when working adjacent to open running lines and live OLE?
- How do you know staff are fully trained and competent to use specific lorry mounted cranes and the associated remote control equipment?
- Is all lorry mounted lifting equipment regularly serviced, inspected and tested in accordance with the mandated schedules?

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