

Collision with a car at Routs level crossing

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

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Location: Routs Level Crossing, Nacton (near Ipswich, Suffolk)

Contact: [Richard Tew](#), Head of Route Safety Health & Environment



Overview

On 14 March 2018 at approximately 20:20, a freight train travelling at approximately 50 mph struck a car at Routs user worked crossing, injuring the car driver.

The crossing is fitted with Miniature Stop Lights and POGO (Power operated gate opening system). It is on a single track section of the Felixstowe branch line (FEL).

Routs user worked crossing is an occupation crossing serving 75 acres of farm land and farm buildings, which were believed to be let to a variety of people for storage purposes.

It is believed that it was the injured person's second time using the crossing with a vehicle, their first having been earlier that evening when entering the farm. They were visiting a sub-tenant of the authorised user.

There was a near miss involving a car at the crossing on 2 February 2018. The driver of the vehicle was subsequently arrested and remains in custody awaiting sentencing for endangering safety of the railway and driving while disqualified.

Following the incident on 2 February the Route had made the decision to remove the POGO from Routs crossing. The work had not been completed at the time of the incident.

Discussion Points

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

- How do we make sure that authorised users understand their responsibilities to ensure all their tenants, sub-tenants, invitees and contractors know how to use the crossing safely and responsibly?
- What should you do if you identify a change in land use near a level crossing that may affect the crossing's use?
- Where can you find out more about level crossing safety?
- What, either individually or in your teams, do you do that affects level crossings? What could you do to improve safety at level crossings?
- How can you help improve the time it takes to develop, procure and install level crossing safety improvement solutions?

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