

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



Track worker fatality

Scope: **All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRX20-03

Date: 09/04/2020

Location: Roade, Northamptonshire - West Coast Mainline South, NW&C

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Overview

It is with great sadness that we report the death of a railway worker yesterday at Roade, near Hanslope Junction in North West & Central Region. The worker was a Controller of Site Safety (COSS) employed by a contractor. The work was to reinforce a cutting slope beside the Up Slow line and had started in February. There was a rigid barrier between the worksite and the adjacent Up Slow line. The work involved using an excavator that would come within the safe distance of the return conductor in the overhead line equipment.

To enable the excavator to work safely, an isolation of the return conductor was taken. Installing the earths for that isolation was done in a line blockage. The COSS had handed back the line blockage shortly before he was struck by a passenger train on the Up Slow line. He was killed instantly. External investigations by British Transport Police, the Rail Accident Investigation Branch and the Office of Rail and Road, and a formal industry investigation have started. We are supporting colleagues from Network Rail and the contractor companies involved.

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