

# Shared Learning

Key learning following a serious incident



## Fall from height - staff injury

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

Ref: NRL19-11

Date of issue: 06/08/2019

Location: UB304/004 Todholes, Scotland

Contact: IP Scotland S&SD



## Overview

Whilst walking at night along a mesh-grid walkway on the bridge at track level, the Injured Person (IP) fell forwards and through a void. The IP fell approximately 1.5 metres down onto the scaffold deck below and sustained bruising to the side of his body.

Walkway panels had been removed to allow workers to pass materials up from the scaffold deck below. However, the IP was unaware of this. The IP attended hospital and had to take time off work to recover from his injuries.

## Underlying causes

- A change in work activity occurred.
- The change was neither adequately planned nor risk assessed.
- The Task Briefing Sheet did not reflect the works or arrangements required.
- Suitable controls to address the hazard were not implemented or discussed before or after removing the walkway panels.
- Lighting at the site of works was inadequate.

## Key message

- Works **MUST** be planned, and risk assessed to avoid late change in the first instance.
- Works **MUST** be re-assessed if late change is required to manage risk effectively.
- Who is responsible for controlling activity on site and ensuring effective communication of hazards and related risks?
- How do you ensure adequate resources are provided on site, particularly in remote locations?

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