

Ensuring controls are in place and effective for identified hazards

Safety Alert

Sharing information to prevent incidents

Target audience: All Sydney Trains

On Saturday, 23 June 2018 at MacDonaltdown, a worker fell a distance of 4.5 metres from a railway overbridge onto a pedestrian pathway below. The worker suffered significant injuries and is currently in a stable condition in the Intensive Care Unit of a Sydney Hospital.

The Issue

Hazard controls that were identified in the Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) and discussed during the pre-work brief were not adequately implemented.

What we have learnt from this incident

- Our safety documents and pre-work briefings are there to alert us to the hazards we face on each and every job and what we need to put in place to control these hazards.
- If you believe a control is not adequate or has not been fully implemented, I ask you to challenge each other and stop the job until an effective control has been applied to reduce the risk of harm.
- Our SWMS and Safe Work Instructions (SWIs) must be relevant to the hazards of the task, be periodically reviewed with consideration of any additional controls that may be available. Once reviewed, SWMS and SWIs must be updated with the controls and briefed to all workers.
- Specifically, please refresh yourself and your teams with the Working at Height procedural requirements (refer to SMS-06-GD-3036 Manage Risks with Working at Heights), including fit for purpose fall arrest / restraint systems and equipment for people and objects. Please ensure that fall prevention controls are in place before starting work and a Working at Heights Rescue Plan is developed where applicable.
- We must work together to ensure Safety is put first over Production, and take the time to completely implement our identified controls.
- I urge you to be diligent, situationally aware and support each other to ensure effective control measures are in place before we start any work.

If you have any questions talk with your Safety Representative or Line Manager.

Nev Nichols
Executive Director SER