

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Staff accident maintaining HW 1000 points machine

Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRA21-04

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Location: Eastleigh Station, Wessex Route

Contact: [Stephen Franklin](#), Network Technical Head (S&C) - Interim



4 adjustment nuts

Overview

At 02:30hrs on Saturday 20th February a S&T member of staff was conducting fault maintenance on a HW 1000 points machine (E465B) on the BML1 at Eastleigh Railway Station when he sustained a deep laceration to his right index finger.

The incident occurred whilst the team member was making adjustments to the clutch. The dry plate clutch is adjusted mechanically by increasing or decreasing the clutch spring pressure by means of the four nuts on the clutch gear. The points had been switched to manual to prevent the points motor energising.

Although the cut-out switch had been operated, a multi-meter set to measure current had been connected across the cut-out switch in preparation for taking a clutch slip current reading.

As the clutch was being rotated manually, movement of the clutch mechanism caused the operating contacts to make contact and caused the points machine to power up and run.

As the clutch rotated the right index finger of the staff member brushed the adjustment pressure springs which caused a deep laceration.

The injured member of staff has had an operation to repair the damaged tendon in his finger. This incident investigation is ongoing.

Immediate action required

- Always follow Risk Controls Manual [NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/MANUAL](#) [Issue: 18] Risk Control Manual - GA15 part SIG002 - Points.
- Always isolate the points machine prior to any inspections and adjustments and where any protective covers are removed for inspection and adjustment, these shall be refitted prior to operating the points on 'power'.
- Always confirm you have been suitably briefed for the work you are to undertake and reach a clear understanding with the person responsible for the task.
- Only carry out tasks you are trained and competent to do.