

Event details

Date of incident: 18/05/2026

Time of incident: 12:20hrs

Location of incident: Wokingham Signal Box

Route: Wessex

Discipline: Signalling

Event description:

As part of site set-up (ahead of asbestos removal works), two operatives were manoeuvring a wheeled 5kVA generator through a railway access gate. The generator had been offloaded from a Luton van nearby. During the offloading process, one operative's left ring finger became trapped against the open access gate. The operative sustained an injury to their finger.

Update on the IP: The IP attended Royal Berks hospital for initial assessment. The wound was bandaged and the IP has been discharged to attend John Radcliffe Oxford hospital for a follow up.

Initial causes identified:

- The operative was not wearing gloves at the time of the incident
- This was not identified or reinforced as part of the putting to work process

Key issues for the investigation to consider:

- Risk assessment for the work
- Methodology selected for moving the generator
- The process of putting the operatives to work

Don't Wait – Act Now!

Whilst the investigation is ongoing, we do not need to wait to act.

Some simple reminders:

- Check risk assessments and WPP/TBS to confirm that the correct type of hand protection has been specified
- Review the hand protection that personnel are using to ensure that it aligns with the gloves specified
- For further information on glove specification, see the SRE Raising the Bar 'Glove Your Hands' campaign
- Have manual handling tasks been assessed and appropriate controls implemented?

Immediate actions taken:

- Operative received initial assistance and was taken to hospital for assessment
- Works stood down, investigation commenced
- Post incident D&A undertaken the following day due to personnel attending hospital. Results negative

Could this happen in another location: Yes

DCP: Matt Wright

Level of investigation: Level 1

Simulation of hand position



Example of generator being used

