Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Fatal accident involving a young person

Issued to:	**All Network Rail line managers and Achilles registered contractors**
Ref:	NRB 15/12
Date of issue:	29/07/2015
Location:	Wrenthorpe Sidings
Contact:	Rupert Lown, Head of Route Health, Safety and Environment



Route dug under fencing

Overview

Three teenagers accessed Wrenthorpe Sidings near Wakefield on 11 July 2015 resulting in one being electrocuted and the others requiring hospital treatment.

The facts remain subject to determination by the coroner however initial reports suggest that the teenagers gained access to the railway by climbing over the parapet of a railway underbridge and then under two fences.

There was a well-trodden path for the route the teenagers appeared to have taken with a route under the fences having been dug out.

When lineside it is believed that one of the group climbed onto an empty coal wagon and came into contact with the live overhead line (OLE).

He fell into the empty wagon and was pronounced dead at the scene.

The coal wagons had been stabled in the sidings for five weeks.

Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- How can we best prevent access to railway sites like this?
- Can we improve the checks on our fence lines to make sure they are secure?
- When we receive reports of trespass what do we do to understand the risks at the location?
- How do we assess whether sidings used for wagon stabling really need electrification assets to be live?
- What would you do if you saw a trespasser on the railway?
- How could you help communicate to local communities the dangers of the railway?