



SG001 Railway Incidents

1. Key Recommendations for operational use

For use by: Pre-hospital teams Internet: Yes

1	Network Rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ACC have informed Network Rail Control and requested a “Line Blockage”. • Do not approach the scene until it is declared safe by the Network Rail Incident Officer. • Ensure regular situation reports are sent and received to and from ACC regarding incident updates and rail traffic. • Inform Network Rail Control when emergency service personnel are clear of the lines.
2	Track side	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not go on the track or near electrical equipment unless accompanied by Network Rail staff. • Wear PPE including high visibility jacket / safety boots / safety helmet. • Move off the track to a position of safety as soon as possible. • Do not assume trains have been stopped unless advised by Network Rail. • Remain vigilant for trains at all times, approaching trains are very quiet and can approach from either direction (at 125mph a train requires a mile to stop). • Keep the number of personnel on the track to a minimum. • Ensure you can reach a position of safety at least two metres from the running line.
3	Electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not assume that power is switched off unless informed by Network Rail Control. • In practice the power will not be turned off until a railways staff member arrives on site. • High Voltage electricity can jump a gap; rain and flood increase the hazard.
4	Overhead power lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON: do not approach closer than 3m. • OFF: the system is safe to approach but not to touch. • ISOLATED: (switched off and earthed) safe to touch, but only if absolutely necessary.
5	Third Rail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ON: do not touch the conductor rail, or anything lying across it, nor a train standing on it. You can step over the rail with utmost care. • OFF: it is safe to touch the rail, but only if absolutely necessary.
6	Extrication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one person should be under the train at any one time. • Do not remain under the train when it is moved. • Entrapments are often lengthy and it may be a long walk to restock with oxygen <i>etc.</i> Address the problem well in advance.
7	Other hazards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TUNNELS – DO NOT enter a tunnel until Network Rail confirm that trains have stopped. • The track area near structures, cuttings or embankments may be too narrow to stand in safely if trains pass. • Freight trains may carry a variety of hazardous goods. • Do not step on rails, step over them. • Avoid crossing the rail near points as trapping your feet may occur. • Conduct dynamic scene risk assessment and be aware of fluid/chemicals leaking from trains/containers (burns/fire-explosion/slip hazard).



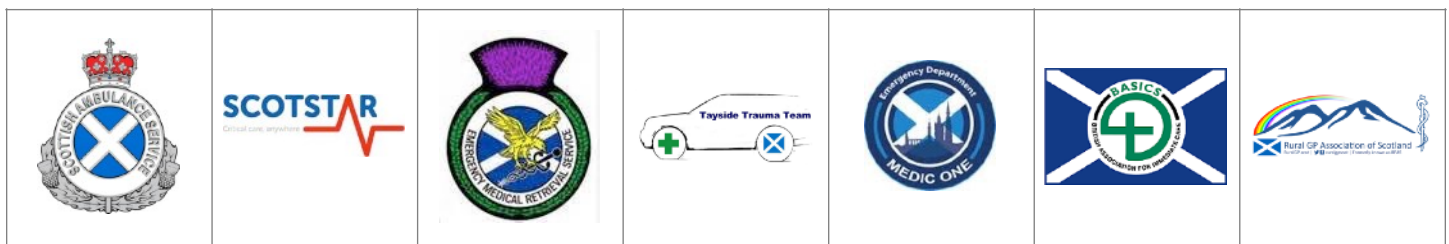
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8	National Risk and Resilience Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For further advice the Scottish Ambulance Service Tactical Adviser can be contacted through the Ambulance Control Centre.
9	Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If needed to report an incident location use:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- a signal, bridge or overhead line support number plate.- a quarter mile post at the track side.- an electrical substation name plate.- a nearby station or level crossing.
10	Hand signals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If there is an obstruction or incapacitated person on the line, you can attempt to stop an approaching train using hand signals:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- move along the line to give as much stopping distance as possible.- stand in a position of safety, facing the train.• Signal the train driver by:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- in daylight: raise both arms above your head.- in darkness: wave a lamp or torch violently.• The train may not be able to stop in time.



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2. Document History			
Reference Number	SG001		
Version	2		
Writing group (Lead author in bold)	Darren Chambers	Regional safety officer	SAS
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Distribution	BASICS Scotland		✓
	Medic 1		✓
	Referring centres via service websites		✓
	Rural GPs Association of Scotland		✓
	SAS	Air Ambulance	✓
		Specialist Services Desk	for information
	ScotSTAR	EMRS West	✓
		EMRS North	✓
		Paediatric	X
		Neonatal	X
Tayside Trauma Team		✓	





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3. Scope and purpose

- Overall objectives:

Dealing with people trapped under trains is difficult. It is critical that you do not compromise your own safety or that of any of the many emergency staff who are invariably present. In order to preserve life, there may be times when the emergency services must take immediate action within the track area, without the presence of Network rail staff. Staff must only do this in extreme cases, as you could be putting yourself at risk. The correct procedures are as stated above.

- Statement of intent:

This guideline is not intended to be construed or to serve as a standard of care. Adherence to guideline recommendations will not ensure a successful outcome in every case, nor should they be construed as including all proper methods of care or excluding other acceptable methods of care aimed at the same results. The appropriate healthcare professional(s) must make the ultimate judgement responsible for clinical decisions regarding a particular clinical procedure or treatment plan.

- Feedback:

Comments on this guideline can be sent to: sas.cpg@nhs.scot

- Equality Impact Assessment:

Applied to the ScotSTAR Clinical Standards group processes.

- Guideline process endorsed by the Scottish Trauma Network Prehospital, Transfer and Retrieval group.



- Reference: SAS generic risk assessment GEN RS 013 Railway Incident.

Quick reference guide SG001 Railways

On tasking

- Check: Network Rail informed.
- Check: “Line Blockage” requested.

On arrival

- Do not: go on the track or near electrical equipment unless declared safe / accompanied by Network Rail.
- Consider resupply: lengthy entrapments / long walk.

Trackside

- Remain vigilant for trains.
- Update ACC regularly.
- Minimise the number of personnel on the track.
- Find position of safety > 2m from the running line.
- Move off the track as soon as possible.
- Avoid structures, cuttings or embankments.
- Only one person under the train at any one time.
- Do not remain under the train when it is moved.
- Stay >3m from power lines.
- Step over rails, avoid crossing at points.
- Freight trains may carry hazardous goods.
- Be vigilant for fluid / chemical leaks