

Safety Advice

IP Central Programme

Brush cutting or strimming with metal blades.

- Since the accident in 2015, where a piece of metal wire was ejected and hit the IP in the leg, (Picture below) there has been a spate of similar accidents within Network Rail.
- So far this year there have been 3 more accidents causing personal injury involving metal brush cutter blades.
- These are the accidents we know about; there may be many more close calls.
- Over the last 18 months within IP Central we have reviewed the information available on the use of this type of blade.
- The risks these blades pose are now well known to us all within IP Central.



Advice Given:

- Review your existing controls in line with the principles of prevention.
- Assess your methodologies when using any type of metal brush cutter or metal strimmer blade.
- Seek guidance from industry specialists on alternative tools, equipment and methods of working.
- The use of metal brush cutter or metal strimmer blades will be classed as a high risk activity requiring Network Rail Work Package Plan acceptance within IP Central.
- Any programme related concerns should be discussed with the relevant IP Central Network Rail Programme Manager.