

Safety Alert 24-74 Rail Crossing Near Miss

What Happened?

In 2010 a tanker owned and operated by one of our contractors was hit by a train on a level crossing near Gt Cornard WRC this resulted in derailment of the train. A number of passengers sustained serious injuries as a result - fatal injuries were only narrowly avoided.

In 2017 another of our contractors in a large van failed to follow the identified Network Rail level crossing procedure and narrowly avoided being struck by a train.

We have just had another incident at the Gt Cornard level crossing which is currently under investigation. Thankfully, no injuries have occurred.



Always

- Follow specific warning signs, lights or instructions when you use any level crossing (In the case of Gt Cornard, users must first receive a specific induction from Anglian Water before they can use the crossing)
- Telephone for clearance (where required) before crossing – tell the crossing operator if you have a large or slow-moving vehicle
- Once clearance has been given, open any gates that may be fitted (on both sides) before taking a vehicle onto the crossing – make sure that your exit is clear, double check for trains and cross quickly. Do not delay after you have called for clearance
- Close gates immediately after use
- Call the crossing operator (where required) to confirm you are clear of the crossing
- If you get stuck on the crossing – get out of the vehicle and off the crossing – **notify the crossing operator immediately**
- Report any level crossing to the crossing operator

Trains can be deceptively fast and surprisingly quiet; they cannot swerve and generally take a long time to stop

Safety Alerts should not be thought of as an incident investigation report. They are issued to raise awareness of incidents that occur and to highlight the safe work practices required to avoid them being repeated.

