

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place

Serious road traffic collision

Scope: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors

Ref: NRX24-01

Date: 13/05/2024

Location: M40, Northbound carriageway between Junctions 12 and 14

Contact: Leevan Finney, Engineering Services Director, Route Services

Overview

At around 02:45 on 8 May 2024 a serious road traffic accident (RTA) occurred on the M40 Motorway, near Gaydon in Warwickshire. Two members of staff employed by Vital Rail who had been working at a Network Rail worksite at Hemel Hempstead were in a vehicle heading north which collided with a lorry.

At present the cause of the collision is not known.

Both members of staff were taken to hospital. The passenger had sustained critical injuries and died in hospital later the same day. Our thoughts are with their family at this sad time.

Network Rail has begun a L3 Investigation and lessons learned will be shared as they emerge.

Areas to discuss in your teams: without prejudice to the ongoing investigation everyone is reminded of these general road safety considerations:

Safe Journey – Are there alternatives to driving? If not then plan your route, allow sufficient time, and don't rush, build-in rest breaks. Let others know your plan.

Safe Driver – only drive if fit to do so. Don't drive unless you are well enough to do so, tired, or otherwise distracted. Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Safe Vehicle – choose the right vehicle for the journey, check your vehicle condition before driving: tyres, fuel, lights, brakes as per your company policy. Make sure your driving position is suitable.

Safe Driving – always obey road signs and drive according to road and weather conditions. Stay alert to other road users and keep your distance.

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