What are the risks facing rail staff using a mobile devices?

Many rail staff use a mobile device such as a phone or tablet, sometimes as a vital part of the job, or perhaps just to stay connected with friends and colleagues.

But they can also be a distraction from the job in hand and increase the risk of safety incidents on the railway from errors and omissions by train drivers, dispatchers, anyone working on the platform or trackside as well as those in a control room or office.

RSSB has begun raising awareness of the course among trainers, briefers and people working on the operational railway in the roles concerned.

The course has been developed through our research, Development of an education programme on the risk of using mobile phones and electronic communication devices in the railway industry (ref T989), which has provided insight into current worker attitudes to, and the prevalence and patterns of, mobile device use.

Findings have been published from the research covering the pilot phase of the course. Three-quarters (76%) of participants found the course content relevant and useful, and 82% felt that the programme would be effective in helping to reduce inappropriate use of mobile devices as well as aiding individual decisions about appropriate and inappropriate use at work.

Participants were also surveyed in the pilot phase, measuring attitudes towards mobile device use, workplace

RSSB has developed an education programme specifically aimed at non-driving staff, to improve the understanding of the risks involved. This builds on the Rule Book and individual company policies as well as the programme developed in 2010 aimed at train drivers.

The course is available in two ways:

- A classroom-based course with PowerPoint presentation material, trainers’ notes, questionnaires and videos
- A web-ready multimedia course to allow rail staff to do the course individually without supervision

For details of changes to Railway Group Standards view the Latest Updates page on the RGS Online website www.rgsonline.co.uk

For details of forthcoming dates for RSSB consultations on standards and associated documents, please see:
or search at www.rssb.co.uk

You can subscribe to Information Bulletin on the RSSB website. RSSB subscriptions page

Winners announced in £3million electrification competition
Risk Profile Bulletin v.8 and Safety Risk Model Risk Profiling Tool now available
Keeping tabs on our research and innovation activities

Front page Image: Courtesy of London Midland
behaviours, and understanding of risks involved. Results suggest that the training programme had a positive impact on participants’ learning and awareness of risk, both immediately after the training and after a longer period.

The work was undertaken on behalf of Network Rail, train and freight operating companies, infrastructure companies, ORR, trade unions and London Underground through the Train Operations Risk Group.

Links:
- The course for non-driving rail staff - available on Opsweb or SPARK (login required)
- Research project - T989 Development of an education programme on the risk of using mobile phones and electronic communication devices in the railway industry
- Research project - T904 Development of a train driver education programme on mobile phone risk
- Train Operations Risk Group

Winners announced in £3million electrification competition

Funding worth £3 million has been announced for nine winning proposals to reduce the cost of electrification schemes by avoiding the need to reconstruct bridges and tunnels.

Altering and reconstructing bridges and tunnels is roughly 25% of the cost of electrification schemes and so this was a smart area for investment in new ideas to reduce the costs involved.

The nine successful proposals to trial innovative technology-enabled solutions are being funded as part of a FutureRailway competition managed by RSSB, and in partnership with Network Rail and the Department for Transport. Competition winners were Balfour Beatty, DGauge, Electren, Freyssinet, IDOM, PCAT Consortium, Tata Steel, TRL and URS. Feasibility studies will run until January 2015 after which finalists will be chosen to proceed to the demonstrator phase.

Further information on this competition can be found on www.futurerailway.org

Risk Profile Bulletin v.8 and Safety Risk Model Risk Profiling Tool now available

RSSB published version 8 of the Safety Risk Model Risk Profile Bulletin (SRM-RPB) on 29 August 2014.

The SRM-RPB documents the latest risk estimates from the Safety Risk Model (SRMv8) and their development. The SRM provides a network-wide risk profile for the railway disaggregated into more than 100 hazardous events and over 2,000 accident precursors. Its outputs are used in risk assessments and to inform decision making throughout the GB railway industry. The scope of the SRM was extended for version 8 to include the risk in yards, depots, and sidings, which was previously modelled separately.

The overall level of railway risk estimated by SRMv8 is 139.6 Fatalities and Weighted Injuries per year (FWI/year). This figure excludes the risk to persons committing or attempting suicide (an additional 244 FWI/year) but does include the shock/trauma risk for passengers and workforce from witnessing a suicide.

This risk can be further broken down into:
- Passengers 58.4 FWI/year
- Workforce 33.4 FWI/year
- Members of the public 47.8 FWI/year

The greatest contributions to the overall risk come from slips, trips and falls (39.0 FWI/year) and accidents related to trespass (33.6 FWI/year).

RPBv8 and the full results of SRMv8 are now available to download from www.safetyriskmodel.co.uk (registration required) as a pdf document accompanied by Excel data sheets. An updated version of the SRM Risk Profiling Tool (SRM-RPT), which helps companies understand their own risk profiles and benchmark performance, is also available to RSSB members.
RGS Online is changing ...

In 2015, RSSB will be making its Railway Group Standards website (www.rgsonline.co.uk) accessible within the company’s main website www.rssb.co.uk. This will allow visitors to see more of the products and services RSSB provides to its members in one place.

The move will give a new look to RGS Online similar to the Research Project Catalogue (currently on www.rssb.co.uk) and will provide the ability to search and filter results then export them into an Excel spreadsheet to sort information.

RSSB are running a short survey shown on both websites. We are interested in how you currently use www.rgsonline.co.uk and what functionality would make it easier for you to do your work.

If you have any questions, or for more information contact Joanne Wickham on 020 3142 5569 or email: joanne.wickham@rssb.co.uk.

Keeping tabs on our research and innovation activities

RSSB is improving the way you can access information about its work to help the rail industry and its supply chain collaborate on research, development and innovation.

Industry, its suppliers and government all benefit from our services. They help to enable the railway to address today’s and tomorrow’s problems, with the aim of reducing cost and carbon, but increasing the capacity and customer satisfaction.

The investment plays a vital role here, both in terms of the funding which is made available and the time and support from the industry to make projects work. However, the benefits are estimated to be worth much, much more. R&D projects closed in the first quarter of 2014-5 cost about £1.2million and could unlock benefits worth nearly £92million, 75 times the original investment.

To help people keep tabs on our activities, we have created a new email bulletin dedicated specifically to research, development and innovation called ‘The Knowledge’. It replaces the previous ‘R&D e-newsletter’.

The first edition issued in September provides signposts to more information about the activities we’re investing in and the outputs we’ve published each month.

In order to receive ‘The Knowledge’, you need to ‘opt in’:

- If you’re already registered on the RSSB website, make sure you’re logged in and then check your preferences to ensure you have ticked the box for ‘R&D programme’.
- If not, register as a user for this site (it’s free-of-charge and easy to do), and as you register your preferences, make sure you select the ‘R&D programme’ from the publications and notifications section of the registration form.

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