



10 October 2017

Parents alerted to pushchair risk on platforms

Alarming CCTV footage captures moment an unattended pushchair was swept into the slipstream of a passing freight train

Parents and others looking after children have been warned to take extra care when using pushchairs on station platforms, by rail safety body RSSB.

CCTV footage from Nuneaton station shows the alarming consequences when a pushchair was briefly left unattended and without its brakes on.

In the clip, the slipstream caused by a freight train passing through the station causes the pushchair to be drawn to the platform edge. Both the pushchair and shopping bags become mangled and dispersed by the passing train.

Mercifully, a child is not in the pushchair at the time.

Train travel is significantly safer than the car and the risks to passengers are low, but the incident at Nuneaton has served a reminder that care needs to be taken near the platform edge. RSSB are reminding passengers to keep firm hold of their luggage, and particularly buggies, applying the brakes fully where possible, while on station platforms.

RSSB's Lead Human Factors Specialist Paul Leach said: *"The best way of keeping you, your children and your belongings safe is to keep hold of your pram, fully applying the brake where possible."*



“We know that anyone looking after children will have their hands full and may feel they can’t keep an eye on everything and everyone at once. But the CCTV at Nuneaton shows just how important it is to keep control of a pushchair.

“For its part, the rail industry will always want to work to make things safer for passengers. We are working closely with Network Rail, passenger and freight train operators and other rail bodies on the issues. Our research on aerodynamic risks have informed better standards for companies to follow, to help reduce risk to passengers on trains and on stations.”

RSSB is working with the rail industry to refresh its passenger awareness campaigns on station safety, including with the Rail Delivery Group who are specifically looking at the issue of trains passing through platforms.

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Notes to Editors:

For more info on this story contact Matt Clements at RSSB on 07968 775782 or talk to anyone in the RSSB press office by calling 020 3142 5653, or email pressoffice@rssb.co.uk

The CCTV footage:

The CCTV footage with freeze-frame captions:

<https://play.buto.tv/4wMbn>

The original CCTV uninterrupted without captions:

<https://play.buto.tv/y2CLN>

The original versions of these videos are also available to download from our website at:

Freeze-frame version with captions:

<https://www.rssb.co.uk/Library/improving-industry-performance/CCTV%20clip%20-%20a%20platform%20safety%20incident%20at%20Nuneaton.mp4>

Continuous version without captions:

<https://www.rssb.co.uk/Library/improving-industry-performance/CCTV%20clip%20-%20Nuneaton%20-%20without%20captions.mp4>



Additional points:

Train travel is fundamentally very safe and accidents causing harm to people at the platform-train interface are rare.

There were 1,515 incidents at the platform edge in the 2015-6 financial year – that’s all incidents (so not just incidents involving luggage and pushchairs) and regardless of whether a train was present at the time or whether boarding to alighting was involved. This is low when you consider 1.73 billion passenger journeys are made a year, but still clearly represents a risk that needs to be borne in mind.

More generally, in terms of passenger safety, the car is 21 times as risky, the bicycle nearly 400 times and motorcycle nearly 1,400 times as risky to passengers compared to trains.

Incidents involving possessions are also rare. But this footage shows the risk is still there and so industry is committed to working together to improve safety on trains and stations, and help provide information and messages to the travelling public where we can usefully remind people how best to stay safe.

The rail industry works with RSSB on this, and has a dedicated “Platform-Train Interface Strategy”, to make the gap between the platform and the train safer, and to ensure that growing numbers of passengers can continue to enjoy safe and efficient train services in the future. <https://www.rssb.co.uk/improving-industry-performance/platform-train-interface>

This includes the cross-industry passenger safety campaign “Lend a helping hand” – and a refreshed poster image for pram safety has been produced (attached).

RSSB has also undertaken research in this area: “*Guidance on protecting people from the aerodynamic effects of passing trains*” (reference T749) <https://www.rssb.co.uk/research-development-and-innovation/research-and-development/research-project-catalogue/T749>

Further research is ongoing “*Identifying mitigations for the risk of unplanned movement of wheelchairs and pushchairs on station platforms*” (reference T1098)

<https://www.rssb.co.uk/research-development-and-innovation/research-and-development/research-project-catalogue/T1098>

About RSSB

Through research, analysis, and insight RSSB supports our members and stakeholders to deliver a safer, more efficient and sustainable rail system.

Our vision is to be a centre of excellence, valued by its members and stakeholders as an essential contributor to their success.

Our independent evidence based approach is built on strong technical capability, and the enabling of collaborative industry engagement for the benefit of the whole rail system

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