

ZHA13 -120

Date: 16/10/2013

### Rail Tensor Saddle Snapped



A Downer crew were stress welding rail at Leigh Creek. Once the weld was completed the tensor motor was started to release the tensor gear. The motor ran for about 30 seconds before there was a loud bang and the tensor saddle snapped in half striking both crew members. One crew member was knocked to the ground and the other crew member was struck on the shin.

#### Why did it happen?

- There were no signs of stress fatigue in the tensor nor were there any cracks sighted during the pre work inspection.
- The incident is currently under investigation.

#### Action required:

All Downer Rail Tensors are to be immediately tagged out of use and Rail Plant Manager advised. The Rail Division Plant Department will arrange for all Downer Tensors to be tested prior to be certified fit for use.

Prior to using a hired Rail Tensor the following inspections must be conducted:

- A Visual Inspection of the Rail jaws and Tie rods for faults.
- Inspect the Tensor hydraulic hoses and cylinders for damage and leaks.
- Check that the Tensor has been tested with a current fit for use certification.
- Prior to engaging the Tensor; the equipment set up must be inspected by a competent person ensuring that the Tensors have a secondary safety device such as safety chains securely fitted.

<b>For further information contact:</b>	National Operations Manager Kyle Mortimer	<b>Phone:</b>	0407 047 161
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Discuss at next available pre-start meeting/post on notice boards – 17/01/14

