

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 81
Issued 26/11/2015

STAR PICKETS BEING LEFT IN THE RAIL CORRIDOR

Incident

This alert has been issued following an incident where, during the last Hunter Valley closedown, a vehicle being driven on an access road ran over an unseen star picket. The star picket pierced the under-body of the vehicle, entering the floor pan area behind the driver's seat. Fortunately there were no injuries. However, this is the second time this type of event has occurred.

It is important that whenever work conducted in the rail corridor which involves the use of star pickets (temporary fencing etc.), that all of the star pickets are removed from the rail corridor, after being used (or no longer required). This includes any damaged star pickets.

Star Pickets also present a hazard during slashing operations.

NOTE: THIS EQUALLY APPLIES TO SHORT LENGTHS OF RAIL WHICH PRESENT A SIMILAR RISK

STAR PICKETS AND SHORT LENGTHS OF RAIL ARE NOT TO BE LEFT IN THE RAIL CORRIDOR.

Photos from previous incident:



Close up of Rear Cab



Star picket just missing brakes

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (e.g. via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc.) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- Contact Denis Snowden, WHS Advisor, on 0418229334, if you require further information.