

No: IGSB: 256

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Derailment within Summit Tunnel as a Result of Falling Ice

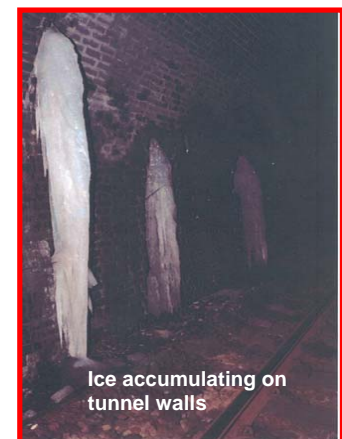
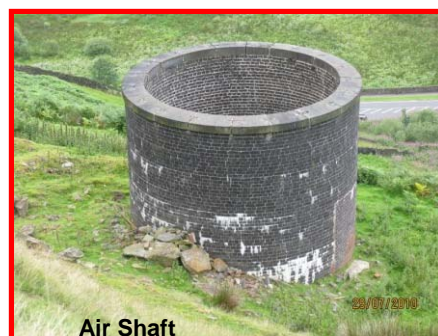
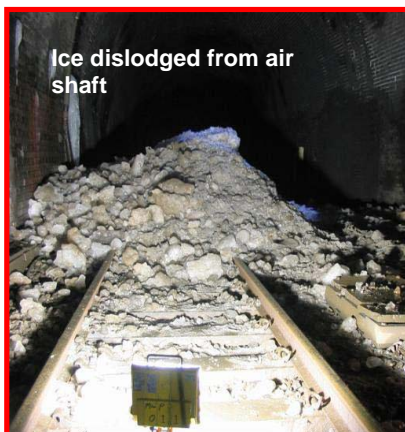
This bulletin is for the attention of;

All staff and contractors who hold an NCCA card working for Investment Projects, Asset Management, National Delivery Service and Network Operations including Infrastructure Maintenance

Background:

On 28th December 2010, a train became derailed within Summit Tunnel, 15 miles north of Manchester as a result of hitting a large quantity of ice falling from one of the tunnel's air shafts onto the track below. Although the train derailed, it remained upright and coupled together and there were no injuries to passengers on board.

A significant amount of ice had accumulated in the air shaft during a prolonged period of unprecedented low temperatures that led to the closure of the track in this area for a number of days prior to this event. During this period incoming ground water was able to freeze over within the air shaft. As temperatures slowly began to rise the ice started to thaw, dislodge and fell onto the track.



Action Required:

All staff who maybe working within tunnels this winter should be briefed on the contents of this bulletin and reminded that if they notice significant quantities of ice building up within tunnels they are to report this situation to the controlling signaller and the appropriate Route Control, so as to enable Maintenance Fault Teams to undertake an appropriate Inspection.