

# Take 5 To prepare



## Resilience and specialist operations team briefing note:

### Railway Incidents

Following the Take 5 To Prepare from March 2021, this Take 5 is designed to be a helpful aide memoire when working on or near the railway network. Please always refer to the National Ambulance Resilience Unit (NARU) guidance and specifically the mnemonic "POWER".

**P**

**Power** off and trains stopped confirmed by authorised person when in doubt, contact EOC

**O**

**Off** the tracks unless the patient appears viable

**W**

**Wear** your personal protective equipment (minimum Hi-vis jacket and helmet)

**E**

**Ensure** EOC and Ambulance Commander knows you are entering or leaving trackside

**R**

**Rapidly** remove viable patient and treat in the safest, agreed area off tracks

### Trackside

When you are tasked to an incident involving the railway you may hear the term "Trackside" being used, Trackside refers to the Network Rail infrastructure encompassing the general "Network Rail" systems in the UK and any other rail systems/environments in the UK. A person is "Trackside" when they have crossed the perimeter fence or left the confines of a station, it does not solely mean the track itself.

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### RIO or MOM?

A Rail incident Officer (RIO) will be dispatched by Network Rail to all incidents where the emergency services are attending trackside. This could be a Mobile Operations Manager (MOM) who will take on the role of RIO.



### RVP and initial actions

A Rendezvous Point should be agreed between Network Rail Control and our AOC. Where possible, the emergency services will await the arrival of the RIO before entering the area of the track. In exceptional circumstances, the rail control room can grant permission for the rescue activity to commence prior to the arrival of the RIO, such as there being an immediate threat to life. However, this needs to be jointly agreed by both control rooms, and confirmation of "Power Off and Trains Stopped" clearly documented.

### Power Off vs Caution

There are many control measures that can be put in place to protect all personnel working trackside, the safest for Ambulance staff to work Trackside is "Power Off and Trains Stopped". Other measures include "Trains to run at Caution" and "Trains to be stopped".

- **Caution**
  - Rail movement is slowed, and drivers are aware personnel are working near the rail infrastructure (more than 3m from the nearest running rail).
- **Power Off**
  - Electrical power supply is turned off (does not stop diesel locomotives). Be aware, overhead line equipment should be treated as live, until the line is earthed.
- **Stop**
  - All rail vehicles stopped (electrical traction current is still live).

## **Entry Control Procedures**

Whenever personnel enter Trackside, you must inform AOC the time you enter and the time you are clear – This should be coordinated by the on-scene ambulance commander.