



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

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ATHRA ALERT #56 – December 2011 NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations Collision – Hi-Rail & Rail Motor – Zig Zag Railway

The NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations (OTSI) report on a collision between a Hi-Rail and Rail Motor can be accessed from their web site at <http://www.otsi.nsw.gov.au/rail/Interim-Factual-Statement-Zig-Zag-Collision-2011-04-01.pdf>

The collision took place on the Zig Zag Railway on 1 April 2011 and injured two workers. The incident was a result of lack of awareness resulting from procedural errors and poor processes. The report examines the errors and other contributory factors that resulted in the collision. Other safety issues were identified in the report and recommendations made. These included operational procedures, safeworking monitoring and audit, maintenance of Train Register books, review of the structure and staffing of safety operational procedures and incident reporting.

Key Messages

- The inherent dangers in our activities must never be under-estimated.
- The OTSI report is very important reading for members and workers at all tourist and heritage railways and tramways.
- Understanding how one error or omission can lead to another resulting in an incident of a serious nature.
- Clear communications between workers and following established procedures is vital.
- Safety is everyone's responsibility.

Recommended Actions

- Distribute this Alert to all your operational workers regardless of their position recommending that they read the report.
- Board Members, Safety Officers, Safeworking Managers and Accreditation Officers should review the OTSI Report recommendations and implement any that have relevance to your circumstances.
- Review your safeworking compliance, internal monitoring and auditing programs and ensure that you follow any findings through.
- Examine Communication systems to ensure their effectiveness at all times.