

# Fast Facts Alert

Subject: Vehicle retaining bar damage

## What happened:

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 a supervisor driving to the Core Valley Lines project offices noticed as he was driving that the offside retaining bar (Edge protection for working on rear of vehicle) was hanging down into the road supported only by the rear retaining post.

The retaining bar had become detached from the fixing and fallen, hitting a member of public's vehicle and causing damage to the windscreen, front bumper and a front spotlight. Luckily the driver was not injured.

## Initial Findings:

The side retaining bar is a removable bar which is fitted to offer edge protection in case an operative needs to work on the flatbed of the vehicle. The bar is secured by the use of a latch which is then further secured by a small carabiner which prevents the latch becoming unsecured. The carabiner is attached to a link chain and pop riveted onto the retaining bar. Upon initial investigation, it appears that the chain and carabiner was missing, however it is uncertain whether the chain was not present before the journey or if it came off during impact with the vehicle or road. It appears that the when the retaining bar is released without control it flies away from the vehicle approximately 1 metre.

## Initial findings believed to be a contributing factor:

The link chains are only riveted on with a aluminium rivet and appear to be quite weak. These rivets mushroom over the chain but are not sturdy allowing movement of the chain.

## Immediate Action required:

Check all vehicles immediately. Ensure the daily checks are taking the retaining bars are secure and the correct use of the carabiner and chain into account on inspection.



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