



Office of Rail Safety

## **SAFETY ALERT**

<b>DATE of ISSUE:</b> 10 January 2011	<b>NOTICE No:</b> RSN 2011 - 02
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<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Checking for damage to rail vehicle axles following train parting incidents.</b>
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<b>ADVICE TO:</b>	<b>All affected Rail Transport Operators</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>Rob Burrows - Director Rail Safety</b>

### **Background**

An incident with potentially serious safety concerns occurred in WA following the main line derailment of a freight train in 2010. The investigation of the incident pointed to a fatigue fracture of the centre of an axle on a wagon that had been involved in a train parting incident six weeks earlier.

While post incident damage to the axle prevented conclusive findings, the operator's inspection processes did not allow for checking the centre of the axle for any impact damage that could initiate fatigue cracking. It is believed that a broken drawbar may have struck the centre of the affected axle in the previous train parting incident.

### **The following actions need to be taken:**

- Rail Transport Operators need to be aware of the potential for this situation to occur and ensure that the entire axles of wagons involved in train parting incidents are examined for impact damage rather than just focussing on the usual wheel seat and bearing areas.

For further information, contact Chris Green on (08) 9216 8520