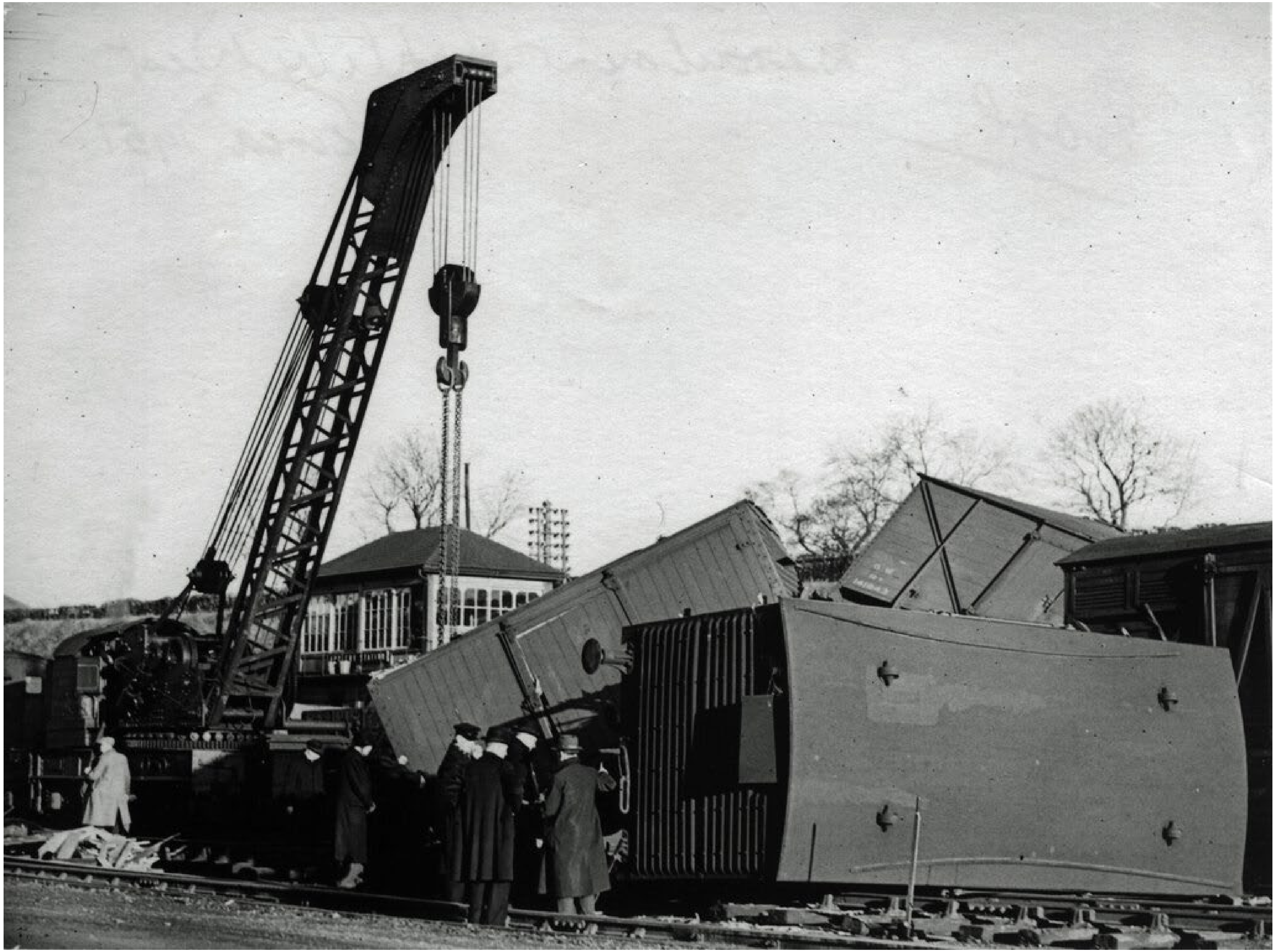
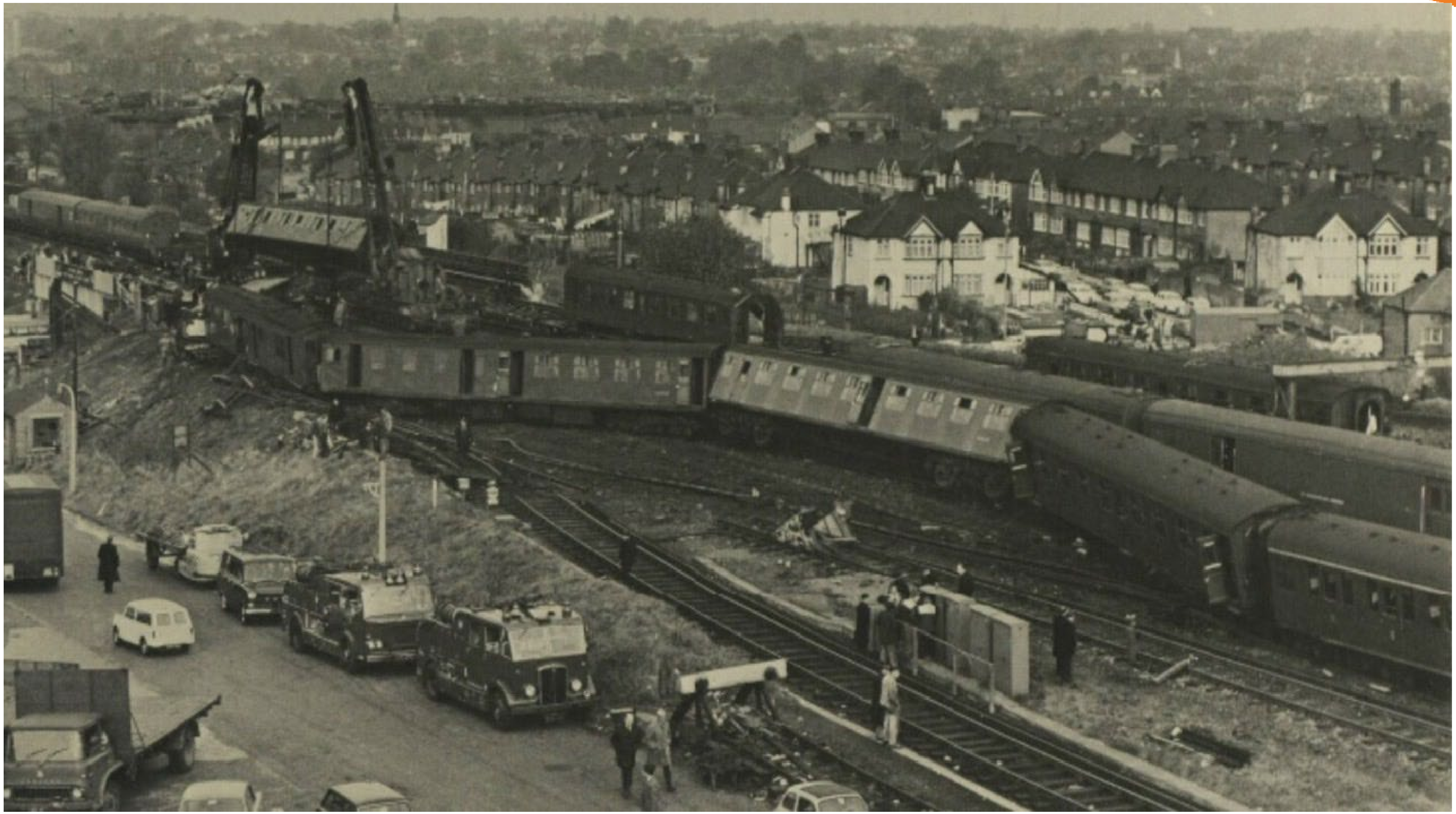
Know your risks

Network Technical Head
May 2026

Providing technical leadership




102



NetworkRail

NetworkRail

So what do we know ?

The good ☺

Experience and research means we have learnt a lot !

- We have good controls for most risks.

The Bad ☹

- Poor corporate memory
- Controls require strong assurance
- Change can have a big impact

We need to understand and know our risks

10% of our track assets have 90% of the problems

Higher risks assets to pay attention to :-

- Tight radius curves (<500m)
- Complex S&C layouts
- Legacy S&C (inclined full depth, RT60)
- Long Bearer Systems
- Pre 79 CWR
- High Linespeed and Tonnage routes

Consider the impact of change

Always consider the impact of changes including :-

Tonnage

Linespeed

Rolling Stock

Access

People

Tools and Materials

Document how you have assed its impact on your assets, use this to support changes to access and resources.

Update your inspection and maintenance plans

Assure the new plans are managing the risks

How do you assure your inspection plans work ?

- Check your inspection regime anytime there is change
- Pay particular attention to the higher risk assets
- The standard guides on the **Minimum** Frequency and Interventions
- Check that defects and faults are recorded in our systems. How do you know if you have a repeat fault ?
- Repeat failure in higher risks assets should be investigated to establish root cause.
- Peer Review, ask a critical friend to check your work (another TME, SAE, route or regional engineer)

Thankyou for all your hard work !

Providing technical leadership