



# **DRIVER EXPERIENCE DAYS COURSE SAFETY ADVICE**

**Welcome to the Avon Valley Railway's Driver Experience Course**

**This document has been produced to provide guidance to you on the basic principles of personal safety whilst you are at the railway**

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, each and every individual has a duty of care and responsibility both for their own safety, the safety of their colleagues and the general public. At the Avon Valley Railway we take that duty of care very seriously.

This document gives advice on the following 5 areas of safety:

- 1 Clothing.
- 2 Working with the loco and its crew
- 3 Driving the Locomotive
- 4 Whilst on the move
- 5 Bringing guests

## **I CLOTHING**

- Working near or with steam locomotives is a dirty and dangerous job, which is why we recommend you wear old clothes. It is very likely that some of your clothes may get dirty.
- Wearing overalls, such as a boiler suit or bib and braces will not only help you to protect your clothing, but offer you better protection for you. We would therefore advise you to bring overalls if you have them or we can normally supply some for you on the day.
- A good standard of footwear is also required and the use of sensible shoes is essential. We do not accept trainers as they do not provide adequate protection against heavy objects or hot cinders. We recommend either boots or heavy shoes; again these can get very dirty so if you need to buy some – buy them cheap.
- Heavy duty gloves are essential; everything on a locomotive (especially the footplate) is extremely hot and, therefore, it is necessary to ensure you have a suitable pair of gloves for the job. Again, we can supply these if required.

## **2 WORKING WITH THE LOCOMOTIVE AND ITS CREW**

- When joining the locomotive you will be under the control of the experienced crew, the driver and fireman. Both are responsible for your safety so when they ask you to do something please listen very carefully and follow their instructions. If you are unsure of what they want you to do please ask them to explain again.
- Every locomotive has a series of handrails and footsteps. It is important that these are kept clean from oil. If you see them covered with oil it is important to report it to the fireman, who will show you how to clean them.
- Working in and around the goods yard can present various hazards so we also advise you to be extremely wary when in the yard. Locomotives and rolling stock can be moving around at any time, so keep a good lookout and listen for sounds of movement.
- Be aware that an engine whistle being sounded may mean that the engine is about to move.
- When an engine does move under its own steam, stand well clear, steam and hot water will be emitted from the cylinder cocks and possible the chimney. If a locomotive is approaching and the driver sounds the whistle it is important to acknowledge this signal by raising one arm. Once the driver has acknowledged your signal you may carry on with your duties.

## **3 WHEN DRIVING THE LOCOMOTIVE**

- To become a steam locomotive driver takes years of hard work to fully understand how a steam engine works. We will do our best to pass this skill on to you in one day.
- Whilst providing advice in controlling the locomotive, the driver will also be observing the road ahead. If you are unsure about the instructions from the driver please ask, it does not hurt to ask twice.

## **4 WHILST ON THE MOVE**

- While the locomotive is in motion, the footplate can make for an uncomfortable and far from smooth ride. If the locomotive hits an uneven bit of track it can make the locomotive bounce so either hold onto something when you are not involved in any specific duty.

## **5 BRINGING GUESTS**

- Participants on the Course 1 Steam (approximately two and a half hours) should be aware that it is particularly difficult for guests to take an active part, as only the locomotive is used. Photographs can only be taken from the platform or from the cycle/walkway which runs alongside the railway track.
- Participants on the Courses 2 Diesel & 3 DMU are welcome to bring along a small number of guests who can be accommodated in the Brake Van or passenger carriages. This is an ideal way of recording this memorable day on video or camera. We hope that these few brief paragraphs will enhance your experience whilst keeping you safe, allowing you to enjoy the time you spend with us.



# DRIVER EXPERIENCE DAYS FOOTPLATE SIGN-OFF FORM

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

Post Code:

I confirm:

- I am able bodied and do not need assistance to get on and off the footplate of the locomotive.
- I will not consume Alcohol or Drugs twelve hours before I start my course.
- I agree to abide by the safety rules and regulations of the Avon Valley Railway and comply with all instructions given by their authorised staff.
- I have read and understood the Safety Advice notes.

Signed:

Please PRINT NAME:

Date of course:

Date signed:

**Please complete this form and bring it with you on the day of your course**