

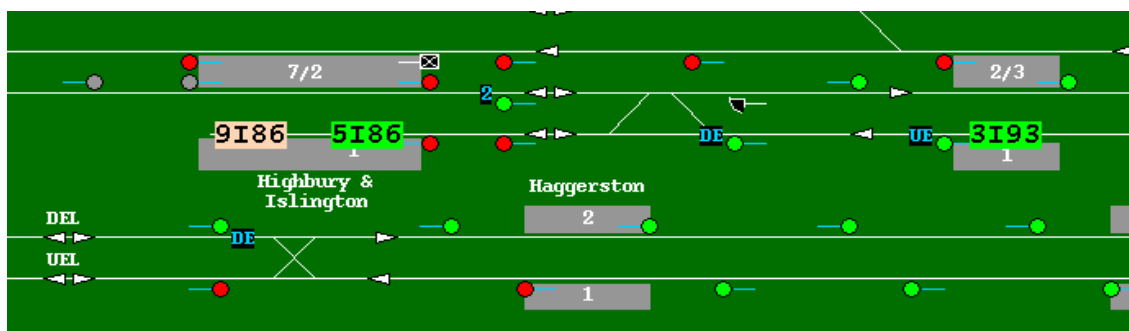
Transferable Lessons from Serious Operational Incidents / Investigations



Issue No: NR/OPS/017

Date Issued: 22/05/18

Use of reminder appliances during line blockages



Summary of Incident:

At approximately 02:00 on the 20/05/18 the ARF system (A simplified version of ARS) at the East London Line Signalling Control Centre (ELLSCC) based at New Cross Gate cleared a route into Platform 2 at Highbury and Islington Station. At the time the signal cleared this was being used for protecting a planned line blockage. The Signaller at ELLSCC recognised the error and cancelled the route immediately, resulting in the Driver of 3I93 observing a change of aspect on EL326 signal from Green to yellow. The published line blockage was required for patrolling to take place but could not be granted in its entirety due to the need to continue to signal trains. As such the signaller was granting the line blockage in stages. The COSS had completed their patrol between Highbury and Islington Station and Canonbury Station where the line blockage was suspended to allow the signaller to signal a train through the section the line blockage was then retaken by the COSS to continue his patrol from Canonbury Station to Dalston Junction Station.

Learning points:

- Consider the impact when shortening the limits of the line blockage
- The signaller had removed the reminder appliances following the suspension of the line blockage but had failed to re-apply one when the line blockage was retaken. Once reminder appliances have been applied 'TAKE 5' to double check
- The Signaller reported an exceptional workload due to a change of timetable and a lack of information on additional train running, as well as granting line blockages, in between trains.
- Review the viability of granting a line blockage on the basis of workload
- If workload becomes an issue consider requesting assistance where available

Points to consider and further actions and precautions:

The signaller believed that they were being accommodating but by doing so increased the already busy work load, thus a basic error was made in the application of reminder appliances.

All staff should ensure that when granting line blockages the correct reminder appliances have been applied in accordance with GERM8000-TS1-3.5.

When receiving a request for a line blockage ensure there is sufficient time for the activity to take place safely. If a suitable gap does not exist then explain this to the COSS/SWL and defer to a more suitable time.

During Timetable changes ensure workload is considered as part of the change and any risk assessments take into account line blockages and possessions

Briefed out to:

All frontline Operations and management teams