

IMDM INNER

Title: S&T Location Case Barrier accident - 27th May 2019 (03:15)

Injury: Arm/Back impact.

Event

A 3 man faulting team from Wimbledon S&T were carrying out cable testing work on the Up Fast cess between location cases in the Wimbledon area to follow up on a wrong side failure.

The team began working within WD21 Location Case and an Operative who was part of the team (in the role of Site Warden) lent against the barrier, which is positioned in front of the Location Case and functions to prevent the inadvertent access to either the operational railway or the electrified third rail.

The barrier, which broke away at its base, gave way under the Operative, causing him to fall to the ground and resulting in him landing on his right forearm and suffering some pain to his lower back.

No First Aid was required, but the Operative, who had suffered bruising/grazing to the forearm, was advised to leave the track-side by the On-Call Manager and the Team was requested to make the area safe and remove the hazard.

As part of the initial investigation it was highlighted that the barriers at Location Cases are inspected during routine maintenance of the Loc's but, due to this being a fault, were not subject to the same inspection routine. This is addressed in the learning lessons.



Above: The barrier and Operatives hard hat (circled) following the accident, with Loc cases behind.

Learning lessons:

- **Do NOT lean against Location Case barriers. They are there to prevent inadvertent access to the operational railway and/or the electrified third rail!**
- **The same practice (leaning against a Loc barrier) was observed just one day after this accident, by a member of the Wessex Safety Team.**
- **EL21 Section 1.4 of NR/L3/SIG/10663 SIGNAL MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATIONS states that; as part of the external inspection, staff should check (if provided) that any guarding or staging are secure.**
- **Where an accident/incident has occurred, do as the S&T team did here and leave the location as safe as possible for the next team on site.**