

NATIONAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

TRANSFERRABLE LESSONS FROM SERIOUS OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS / INVESTIGATIONS

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Transferable Lessons from Serious Operational Incidents / Investigations

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Line Blockage Irregularity with Auto Signal at Courthill Junction



Summary of Incident:

On the 17th August, the signaller on TBROC Grove Park A workstation received a phone call from London Bridge Panel 7 regarding a line blockage that required TL287 to be used as the protecting signal. TL287 signal is an auto signal that requires a signal post replacement switch to be operated to return the signal to danger, this however was not carried out as part of the protection arrangements. The TBROC signaller only placed a reminder appliance on TL287 signal before giving London Bridge signaller confirmation that protection was in place. This method of protection was only recognised by a relieving signaller and upon realising that TL287 had not been replaced to danger they contacted the COSS and arranged for the line blockage to be cancelled.

Learning points:

- It is the Signallers responsibility to ensure the line blockage is suitably protected as per Rulebook Module TS1 section 13.2.3:
 - “You must place or keep signals at danger, arrange for the signal to be placed to danger by operating an SPRS or close the route and keep it closed to protect the line blockage.”*
- If you receive a request from an adjacent signaller to maintain a signal to danger for protection purposes, you must always discuss the arrangements
- Protecting signals must be maintained at danger for the duration of the blockage, unless another route is being used that has been agreed with the person requesting the Line Blockage.
- A clear understanding must always be reached.

Points to consider and further actions and precautions:

- Take 5 when receiving requests from adjacent signallers to provide signal protection.
- Discuss the arrangements regarding how the signal will be placed to danger.
- What prompts do you use to ensure that a protecting signal has been placed to danger?
- Never assume, always ask.

Briefed out to: All Signalling Staff and Frontline Operations Teams.