

Safety Alert

A serious incident has taken place



Electrical Safety Incident

Issued to: Southern region

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Location: Slade Green Depot, Kent

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During work to change rail within a sidings possession, on 12 July, a member of staff suffered burns to his ankle when the handle on his ironman came into contact with the conductor rail, causing an arc flash. The Seaward Live Line Tester used to test the conductor rail didn't operate correctly and damage to the probe, was subsequently identified. A national safety bulletin has been issued on this.

It has also been identified that the rail change had been planned and agreed at a local level between the delivery unit and worksite owner. This had not been published in the possession pack, and therefore isolation arrangements did not take into account the additional activities required to undertake this work, which included the use of ironmen.

Learning points

- All additional work added to an existing worksite already published in the Possession Planning System (PPS) must be requested and approved via the relevant access change process, and PPS updated accordingly. Similarly any fundamental change in the type of work being undertaken must follow the same process to ensure the planned isolation provides the right level of protection.
- The presence of any Live Floaters that cannot be isolated within or adjacent to a worksite must be documented in the PICOP and ES packs and briefed prior to the start of any work.

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Kent route