

Safety Bulletin

An Operational Irregularity has occurred



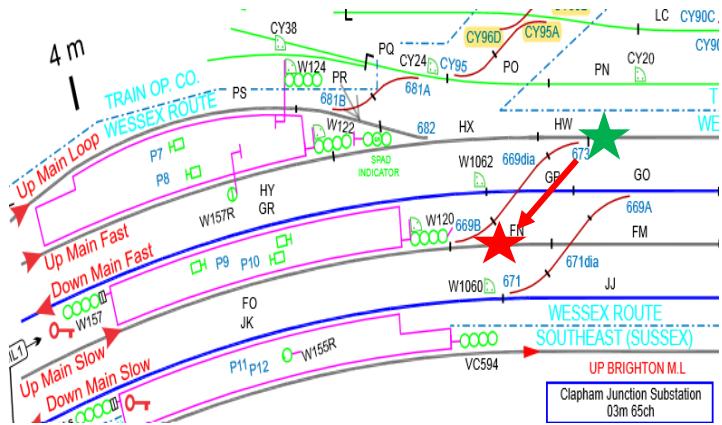
Issued to: All regional functions, line managers and staff in DC traction areas including Contractors, HSQE Professionals, Southern Region.

Reference: Operational Irregularity

Date of Issue: 16/11/2020

Location: Clapham Junction, Wessex Route

Contact: Steven.Edwards@networkrail.co.uk
WHSEA Inner DU.



Overview

On 14th of November 2020 at approx. 04:00 hrs after completing work in an ES worksite under T3 protection with an isolation of third rail traction current, a maintenance team (consisting of P-Way and Welding staff) moved out of a protected and isolated area into an open line and caused an electrical incident when an item of equipment came into contact with a live conductor rail.

The group, under the control of a Person in Charge/COSS carried a hand trolley, tools and equipment from the Up Main Fast line near Clapham junction, crossed over one line and then into another; the adjacent Up Main Slow which was open to the movement of trains. This manoeuvre was made with the intention of reaching Platform 10 to unload the trolley and equipment prior to the worksite being given up by the ES.

The decision to move from the protected line in which they were situated was made by the PiC/COSS, because it was believed a set of points were set against the movement, this was not questioned by others within the team. Whilst passing over an electrified third rail an item of grinding equipment came into contact with the live conductor rail resulting in an electrical flashover.

Discussion Points:

- Do you have the necessary local knowledge and are you fully conversant with the diagrams and maps within your Safe Work Pack and the information on your Conductor Rail Permit? **Do you know where you are?**
- Do you take the time to '**Stop, Think and Take 5 for Safety**' or do you let the situation that may be unfolding around you decide your fate?
- Do you feel empowered to challenge colleagues, no matter their position or standing if they are doing something that **you** think may be unsafe?

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