

Safety Bulletin

A Near Miss has taken place



Issued to: All NR Safety Critical staff, Contractors, Line Managers and HSE staff.

Reference: WX 12/20

Date of Issue: 24/12/2020

Location: Wessex Route, Rowlands Castle Station. WPH1 @63m18ch

Contact: Clyde Howarth (Head of Operations Delivery)



Workforce near miss with train on 19/12/20 at Rowlands Castle, Wessex Route.

Overview

On Saturday 19th December at approx. 19:14 hrs a Mobile Operations Manager (MOM), whilst responding to a report of an item thrown on to the down line of the operational infrastructure by youths, was involved in a near miss with SWR train 1P57 (Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour) within the limits of Rowlands Castle station.

Rowlands Castle station is situated on a curved section of track with a line speed of 70 mph. The signalling is under the control of Havant ASC. The incident occurred during the hours of darkness, all station platform areas on the Wessex Route are red zone working prohibited (RZP).

On his arrival at the station and before attempting to retrieve a bag from the down line, the MOM had contacted the signaller at the adjacent Petersfield signal box regarding train movements, this was not the signal box controlling the signals at this location. There was no formal communication between the MOM and any Signaller regarding use of line blockage protection arrangements. No formal line block protection was put in place.

After an unsuccessful attempt to retrieve the bag of rubbish from a sitting position on the platform edge the MOM jumped into the 4ft of the down line and immediately noticed the headlights of the approaching train travelling at line speed. He immediately jumped back onto the platform and rolled away from the edge on his back and within seconds the train passed through the platform. The MOM and train driver were shaken by the event which is now under investigation.

Discussion Points and Lessons Learnt

- In all circumstances whilst working 'on or about the line' you (COSS or IWA) must set up a safe system of work (SSOW) for the operational risk as defined in the Rule Book GE/RT 8000 and NR/L2/OHS/019 Operational hierarchy.
- Your SSOW must be documented in a safe work pack (SWP) or an Incident Response Permit (IRP) prior to undertaking the work activity.
- When setting up any SSOW, reference to the Hazard Directory is a pre-requisite; you must check the Hazard Directory to identify any hazards that are relevant to your SSOW. Do you have access to this information?

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