

Safety Bulletin

An Operating Irregularity has taken place



Issued to: All route functions, line managers and staff including contractors, Wessex Route

Reference: Operational Close Call

Date of Issue: 20th May 2021

Location: Nine Elms Junction - Line of Route RDG 1, (Wessex Route)

Contact: Wessex Access Planning and Delivery Team



Overview

A possession published in Wessex WON Week 07 Item 6 Supplement 1, was booked to take place between Waterloo and Nine Elms Junction/Queenstown Road/Linford Street/Waterloo International from 00:35hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 16th May 2021.

The Possession Support Staff (PSS) was sent the correct Safe Work Pack (SWP) well in advance but failed to verify it until the night of the possession where he was briefed by the Peron In Charge of Possession (PICOP) and issued with an authority number.

At 05:32hrs on the day of the possession, Wimbledon Panel 2 contacted the PICOP to report that an Empty Coaching Stock (ECS) 5R01 had come to a stand at the incorrectly placed protection at Nine Elms. The protection was placed at the tip of the points instead of on the approach to W608 points.

Additionally, it was later discovered that the SWP issued by the PICOP on the night was for Linford Street Junction instead of Nine Elms Junction but was accepted by the PSS without challenge. However, the Possession Diagram included in the SWP also covered the required location and correct briefing was received on the night.

The Duty Operations Delivery Manager (ODM) attended the site with the correct SWP to carry out the duty of care and investigation into the incident, and to confirm that there were no other safety issues. The necessary arrangements were made with the PICOP and Signaller to place the protection at the correct limit.

This incident is under further investigation.

Discussion Points and Lessons Learnt

- *Standard 019 mandates that during the verification stage, the SWP should be reviewed a minimum of one shift in advance, to confirm the details are accurate, appropriate, and fit for purpose for the work to be undertaken.*
- *When issuing SWPs and other safety critical paperwork to teams, check that the correct information is provided.*
- *Always Take 5 and seek confirmation if you are unsure about something. Ask questions and make sure you have a clear understanding of what is required, do not assume, and carry on regardless.*
- *Avoid placing protection on top of the points.*
- *Always follow the safety critical communications protocol, confirm understanding using repeat back and open question technique.*

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REMEMBER TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO ALL GOVERNMENT AND NETWORK RAIL'S DIRECTIVES ON COVID-19. HANDS – FACE – SPACE – FRESH AIR (STAY ALERT AND BE SAFE AT ALL TIMES).