

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 12th August 2020

Location: Linford Street Junction at 2m 43ch - Line of Route AGH, (Wessex Route)

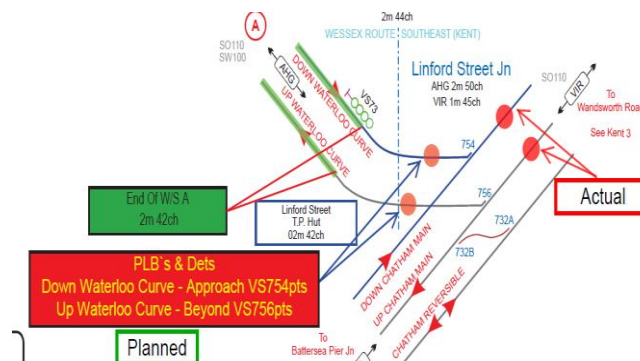
Contact: Wessex Access Planning and Delivery Team

Overview

A possession published in Wessex WON Week 16 Item 21 was booked to take place between Waterloo and Queenstown Road/Nine Elms Jcn from 00:35hrs to 05:00hrs on Tuesday 20th July 2021.

After the absolute possession had been granted, the Person In Charge of the Possession (PICOP) received a call from Victoria Panel 7 Signaller informing him that an Empty Coaching Stock (ECS) train 5P88 had struck a possession limit board (PLB) on the Up Chatham line (VIR) just before Linford Street Junction and that there was a PLB in place adjacent on the Down Chatham line.

Upon investigation, it was established that the Possession Support Staff (PSS) had placed the PLB's and detonator protection on the Chatham Lines outside of the possession limits instead of the planned Down and Up Waterloo Curves (AHG), resulting in the 5P88 striking one of the PLBs on the Up Chatham line.



The Up and Down Chatham lines were inspected under full line blockage protection, evidence gathered, and the remaining PLB and detonator protection recovered along with the damaged PLB and 1 blown detonator. The Duty ODM took over the PSS duties, and the PLB's and detonator protection were correctly placed on the Down and Up Waterloo Curves.

The PSS when interviewed advised that he was unaware he had stepped into the open lines and further confirmed that it was his first time at this location. The PSS was supplied with the correct paperwork and received appropriate briefing prior to carrying out the task.

Discussion Points and Lessons Learnt

- Ensuring suitability and individual understanding of Possession Pack/Safe Work Pack (SWP) and 019 compliance.
- Checking the relevant PSS have fully understood the briefings and the appropriate processes are followed to prevent a reoccurrence.
- Confirming all PLB and detonator protection are correctly placed and completely removed and counted at the end of the task.
- Being focused and paying attention to details and referring to all associated paperwork to manage tasks safely and effectively. Take 5 and always seek confirmation if something is unclear, never assume.

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