



## Lessons learned - Protection incorrectly placed, on multiple lines open to train movements.

### WHAT HAPPENED?

Two teams of two possession support workers incorrectly placed possession limit boards and detonators on lines that were open to train movements. Consequently, four workers were exposed to the risk of being struck by a train.

The first team (COSS + PS) working near to a junction that split into two lines used the incorrect access steps at an access point which led them to access the wrong line.

The second team (COSS + PS) followed the first team in the belief that they knew where to access the correct line because they were aware that the first team had previously discussed the access location with the on call duty manager.

### LESSONS LEARNED

- Ensure that you are familiar with a location before starting work - request an accompanied site visit from an experienced worker or, if you are suitably experienced, familiarise yourself (safely) in plenty of time.
- Always carry out sufficient checks to ensure that the site of work matches the contents of the Safe Work Pack;
- Never assume that someone else is correct in their actions and blindly follow their lead - check, check, and check again;
- Take responsibility for your own safety and for those you may be responsible for.

### UNDERLYING CAUSES

- All four staff were unfamiliar with the location
- The first COSS had failed to carry out sufficient checks to verify that the site of work matched the plans within the Safe Work Pack.
- The second COSS had failed to carry out sufficient checks to verify that the site of work matched the Safe Work Pack, and assumed the first COSS was correct.

[Read More >>>](#)



## CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COSS'S

Both COSS's had to undertake a number of mentored shifts before they could be permitted to work under their own authority to ensure they were making sufficient locational checks of the railway infrastructure against the plans in their Safe Work Packs.

## TIME TO THINK – UNSAFE BEHAVIOURS

- Have you ever carried out a task without first checking that it was correct, or blindly followed someone rather than take the time to check for yourself?
- Have you ever carried out a task that you were not sure how to complete properly, but you did it anyway because you did not want to feel foolish by admitting your lack of understanding to a colleague?
- If you are concerned that you do not know how to carry out a task properly or safely or that the plans or instructions that you have been given are incomplete, unworkable, too difficult, or unsafe in any way:

- **STOP WORK.**
- **GO TO A PLACE OF SAFETY.**
- **TAKE 5 MINUTES TO THINK CLEARLY ABOUT THE SITUATION.**
- **CALL THE TES2000 ON-CALL REPRESENTATIVE FOR**

## SUPPORT AND FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

- **DO NOT RE-COMMENCE WORKING UNTIL:**
  - You have agreed a safe system of working with the TES2000 On-Call Representative,
  - The correct and valid plans / documentation are in place,
  - You have received an authorisation code from the TES2000 On-Call Representative if the plan has been changed.



**SAFETY FIRST - EVERYONE HOME SAFE**



Safety, Health, Environment, Quality (SHEQ)  
Email: [SHEQ@TES2000.co.uk](mailto:SHEQ@TES2000.co.uk)  
Out of hours SHEQ advice: 07935 500 054

TES Safety App