

Near miss with trackworker

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRB 17/17

Date of issue: 17/08/2017

Location: Location: Trowbridge, Wiltshire - Western Route

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Overview

On 24 July 2017 at 09:27 a COSS with a 7-person vegetation clearance team working for a Works Delivery Principal Contractor was less than two seconds from being struck by a train.

The COSS had taken a line blockage for the up line, but the team were actually working on the down line, which was open to traffic.

The train was slowing on the approach to Trowbridge station and was travelling at 25mph on a 50mph line with good visibility during daylight hours.

Since March 2017 there have been two near misses and three close calls on the Western Route.

Four of these incidents involved the teams being in the wrong location due to either not understanding the track layout or not understanding the safe system of work pack (SSOWP).

The fifth incident was an error of judgement by the COSS.

No one involved in these incidents challenged that they were working in an unsafe position or even in the wrong location.

Please take time to watch the 'One Near Miss Too Many' on the [Track Safety Alliance](#) website.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team.

- How is the safe system of work briefed to the team, so that the relevant information is shared and how is the team's understanding checked?
- Do you Take-5 to review the Safe System of Work before testing and implementing it?
- What action must be taken when a COSS needs to change the safe system of work?
- How do you check the line blockage information is correct for the location of the work and planned arrangements?
- How will the new 019 process assist in understanding the correct locations where work is to be undertaken including the details in the Safe Work Pack (SWP)?

Copies of Safety Bulletins are available on [Safety Central](#)