

Near miss with staff near Primrose Hill tunnel portal

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

Ref: NRB 18/08

Date of issue: 26/04/2018

Location: Primrose Hill

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Overview

On Sunday 11 March, colleagues were working at the northern portal of Primrose Hill tunnel.

Initial investigations have shown that there was a discussion between the workers and their COSS, challenging their understanding of the layout in that area.

The COSS appears to have confused the fast lines and the slow lines despite having previously worked with this team in and around this location on multiple occasions.

The team had just placed a hand trolley on the line when they were warned of the approach of a train by colleagues working 50 metres or so north of them. Fortunately they were all able to scramble clear and remove the trolley.

The slow lines where the workers should have been working were under the protection of an engineering possession. However, the fast lines were open pending the arrival of the train involved in the near miss at Euston.

The access point the team were using leads to a wide way between the Slow lines and the Fast lines.

Discussion Points

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

- Is the information provided in the Safe Work Packs you usually receive sufficient to give a clear indication of the access point to use and how to get from the access to the site of work?
- If this or other safety critical information was not clear what would you do?
- What would need to change to make you more confident with invoking the work safe procedure in this sort of situation?
- What are the potential consequences to you and your family if you become involved in a serious incident like this or perhaps worse?

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