

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Collision between two trains at Plymouth station

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

Ref: NRB 16/06

Date of issue: 14/04/16

Location: Plymouth Station

Contact: [Tim Leighton](#), General Manager



Overview

At approximately 15:30 on Sunday 3 April 2016, a GWR service (the 13:39 Penzance - Exeter St. Davids) collided at approximately 15mph with the rear of a stationary train (GWR 15:42 Plymouth - London Paddington) in platform 6 of Plymouth station.

Both trains had been re-platformed due to the lift being serviced on platforms 7 & 8 at Plymouth, alternative station working arrangements had been in operation

After agreeing to re-platform the first train from platform 8 to platform 6, the Signaller arranged to signal the Penzance to Exeter service (booked platform 7) into the occupied platform 6 under permissive working arrangements to enable easier access for passengers to change from one train to the other.

The passenger service formed by 2 class 150 units collided with the stationary train in the platform resulting in casualties on board the class 150 train, some of whom had to attend hospital.

There had been insufficient space to fully accommodate the second train in the platform. A full industry investigation is being undertaken.

Note: Permissive Working permits more than one train to be in the same signal section on the same line at the same time and can apply to some platforms.

Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- When alternative methods of working are initiated, how do you evaluate risks to avoid unintended consequences?
- What guidance or reference information do you provide for when plans change or to support staff who are expected to use their judgement?
- How are location specific instructions or methods of operation evaluated and communicated to all relevant personnel?
- Note - a Significant Operations Alert (WR030416) has also been issued for Operations Staff in relation to permissive working factors.

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