

HSE Alert 07 in 2019

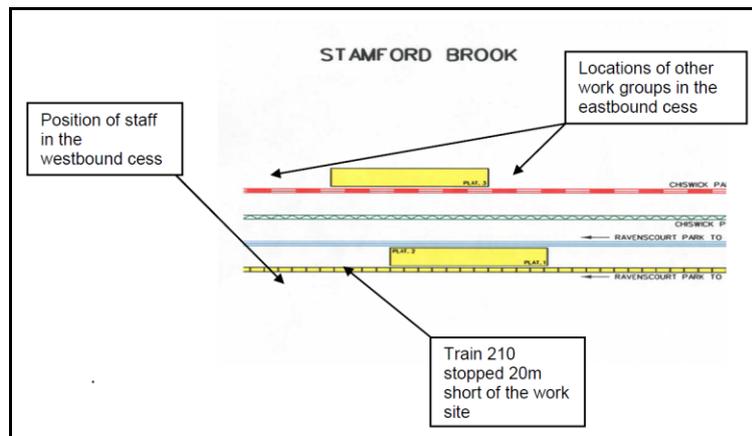
Near Miss Accessing Track During Engineering Hours – London Underground

Date of issue: 14 August 2019
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Background

Following a high potential near miss involving workers accessing the track at Stamford Brook, this Alert is being issued to remind about the importance of correctly following protection rules and procedures.

Both eastbound tracks and the westbound fast had traction current switched off, and working parties accessed this area correctly to carry out cable route work. The last published train on the westbound local road was very late due to an earlier signal failure. Workers under the protection of a Protecting Workers on the Track (PWT) person crossed from the eastbound side to the westbound local to carry out cable troughing work, but were unaware that traction current was still live. After some time the delayed last train approached and the train operator applied the emergency brake stopping short of the group.



Following the initial investigation, it was found that neither the PWT or Site Person in Charge (SPC) carried out their duties correctly.

Instruction

Everybody has a responsibility for the safety of themselves and others. PWTs and SPCs have specific additional responsibilities, and the relevant rule book and accompanying Written Notices at [LU Rule Book 16](#) explain what these are.

PWTs

The PWT must always observe the passage of the last train on all roads before accessing the track area.

If the passage of the last train has not been witnessed, the PWT must contact the signaller to seek verification of the status of the last train.

The PWT must correctly check and test to make sure that traction current is off on all the roads that protection has been booked for.

SPCs

The SPC must witness the last train with the PWT, or witness the call to the signaller.

The SPC must witness the PWT testing for traction current.

Everyone

Always work to the rules and procedures that are in place to protect you and your colleagues. It's ok to challenge if you think somebody has made a mistake.

If you are the person challenged, take time to reconsider so that you can be certain that what you are doing is correct.

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