

# Safety Bulletin



## Aspen Hi-Flow Condensate Pump Burn Out

**Issued to:** All Network Rail line managers safety professionals and accredited contractors

**Ref:** NRB25-03

**Date of issue:** 06/10/2025

**Location:** Warrington PSB Telecoms room

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### Overview

On Sunday, 14 September 2025 at 11:55, the Signaller at Warrington Power Signal Box (PSB) reported activation of the fire alarm within the Telecommunications Room. The Signalling Supervisor promptly obtained the key to access the room, whereupon they discovered the area was filled with smoke. The Fire and Rescue Service was immediately contacted.

The Fire Service arrived on site at 12:04 and determined that the source of the smoke had self-extinguished prior to their arrival. The origin of the incident was identified as the Aspen Hi-Flow Condensate Pump, as depicted in the attached photograph. No other equipment within the room sustained damage as a result of heat or smoke. Notably, no fire suppression systems or water-based extinguishing methods were required or deployed. As a precautionary measure, the Fire Service isolated the air conditioning unit and disconnected the pump from its power supply.

The precise cause of the pump failure remains under investigation. The unit has been inspected and returned to the manufacturer for detailed analysis. Further updates will be provided as additional information becomes available. The pump underwent its most recent scheduled maintenance in May 2025, at which time it was assessed to be in satisfactory working condition.

North-West route have reviewed their signal boxes and currently have this model of pump deployed at over 30 locations.

These pumps are widely used across the country by all regions, so all areas should review their asset information.

### Discussion points

- Are the scheduled maintenance activities for air-conditioning units and condensate pumps being undertaken to the correct frequency?
- Do high demand or older systems require more regular maintenance activities?
- Do maintenance activities include regular cleaning to the filters and drain lines to prevent clogs?
- Are the units installed according to the manufacturer's instructions?

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