

Shared Learning

The Thameslink Programme

Issue Date: 03 May 2018 - For further info contact sharon.fink@networkrail.co.uk

Issue Number: TLP089

Title: Work in Live LV Switch Room

Overview of Event:

Planned remedial concrete works were to be completed in a live Low Voltage (LV) switch room within the back of house area at London Bridge station.

There are controls in place to make sure works are authorised and that access is allowed via an access permit system. This system was followed, however additional work (scaffolding handrail) was required to be carried out and was not authorised by the permit. Metallic equipment which was being used is not permitted whilst the equipment in the plant room is live. There was therefore a risk to the team and to the operations of the station.

General Key Messages:

- Permit systems must be strictly adhered to
- If works change, teams must stop, reassess and seek additional authority where required

Causes:

Immediate - The omission of the required specific information on the limitation of the access permit and the LV switch room being left unsecured.

Root and Underlying Causes

- Failure to secure access to the controlled room. This could have resulted in unauthorised persons entering the room and for the potential interruption to operational station systems.
- Failure to communicate all the required processes as per the limit of access permit to ensure a safe system of work was in place.
- Lack of specific detail in the task briefing (TBS) to identify the potential risks of lifting floor plates and working in and around live services.
- Modification of the permit after it was issued was a missed opportunity to identify that scaffolding was required to complete the work.
- Electronic permits lacked the detail of the required works to be undertaken [Scaffolding as edge protection]

Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- The WPP was reviewed and TBS was revised.
- Requirement of protection for services when floor plates are lifted in LV rooms.
- All personnel were briefed on the requirements to access LV / HV switch rooms.
- Reinforcement of the permit process communicated at the Just & Fair Culture interview with the project personnel involved.
- The Engineer was rebriefed on the Point of Work Risk Assessment (PoWRA) process and has undertaken refresher training on risk analysis and risk perception.
- Audit to be carried out to assess the effectiveness of the electronic permitting system.

Photo of Event :



Scaffold handrail erected in the LV room.