

Lessons Learnt from a Significant Event



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Issued By: Thameslink Programme, HSEA Team, James Forbes House, 27 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0NS

Issue Number: TLP012

Title: Murphy's Yard Kentish Town – Live 25kv Cross Track Feed missing from Isolation form

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Overview of Event

On 6th October 2013, it was discovered that the Isolation Details Form (IDF) used by the Nominated Person to create Isolation Permits (Form C) did not include a live 25kv cross track feed hazard on the Thameslink Project at structure F01/29.

Sequence

- When the Isolation was being granted, the Nominated Person gave permission to the Authorised Persons to test and apply earths.
- Confirmation was received by the Nominated Person from the Authorised Persons that all earths had been applied.
- The error was then identified during the issue of the Form Cs. Personnel on site with previous experience of working in the area, realised that the live cross feeder was missing from the Form C.
- The Principal Contractor Representative immediately stopped all activity, instructed the return of all Form Cs and all works were subsequently cancelled.

Underlying Causes:

There are a number of underlying facts that contributed to the event: -

- The isolation was added to the schedule at late notice, so was not included in the original draft plan.
- This was the first IDF that the Isolations Planner had created for this isolation since the departure of the previous Planner. The Isolations Planner had inadvertently omitted the live cross track feed hazard from the IDF even though he was aware of it.
- The possession was agreed after the Weekly Operating Notice (WON) was issued (T-9 Days). Therefore there was no confirmation that the isolation would be needed until the IPF (Isolation Planning Form) was issued by East Midlands Route (approximately 9 days out). As a result, the plan had to be created and submitted on the same day, hence putting the planner under pressure.
- The Nominated Person did not have the opportunity to undertake a walkout to check the isolation details in advance of the possession

The Photograph below show the live 25kv cross track feed



These roads were under possession and isolation

Key Message:

- The Suppliers Isolations and Access Planning team to develop a process to cross-check the accuracy of all IDF's prior to submission to the Electrical Control.
- Arrangements should be put in place to allow Isolation planners and Nominated Persons to gain knowledge of the geographical area they are required to plan and deliver isolations for.
- Where works are planned late in the process or changes are made to the arrangements, then project teams should consider the impact on those undertaking the planning and consider additional checks in the process to help provide assurance the planning has identified the correct limits, all known hazards and that the planned works can be undertaken safely.
- Personnel should be encouraged to challenge the safe system of work for any activity where they have concerns and they should be commended for doing so