

Shared Learning



The Thameslink Programme

Issue Date: 23rd Nov 2015 - For further info contact sharon.fink@networkrail.co.uk

Issue Number: TLP044 Title: Access Permanently Closed Putting Staff at Risk

Overview of Event:

At 0340 hours on 10th September the Bridgeway Duty Manager reported that the Costain team had "Permanently Secured Shut" the access gate on to Platform 5 at London Bridge station on the Up Charing Cross prior to Bridgeway Possession Support Staff completing their duties at that location. This gate had been used by the Possession Support Staff to gain access to the infrastructure at the start of the possession. After finding themselves unable to utilise the access gate on to Platform 5 provision was made for the Bridgeway staff to egress via an alternative safe route.

Causes:

Immediate - Doors that have direct access to the track off platform 5 were screwed closed from inside.

Root and Underlying Causes

- The Costain team were under the impression that platform 5 doors were not an agreed access. The planning meetings held each week by the Network Rail Route Access team and the Network Rail ODMs do not discuss the agreed access points. The resultant PICOP pack that does document the access locations is not shared with the Costain team.
- The Costain nightshift Manager did not take an active role as the Principal Contractor representative in formally managing their access points and do not have the co-ordination arrangements in place for access to their site for Possession Staff.
- The Costain nightshift team did not adequately discuss the issues regarding the access doors being left open on platform 5 with each other and / or the Costain Project Manager / Network Rail Route Access team. This led to the General Foreman making a decision to permanently close the gate without consultation with the Costain Nightshift Manager.
- The Bridgeway Nightshift Manager gave authority to remove the padlock without authorisation from the Principal Contractor (Costain).
- There had been historical informal access at platform 5 without the clear agreement and the necessary inductions for entering the Costain PC site.

Photo of Event :

Access door that was secured closed.



Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- Locks on the door were changed to an abloy lock and access arrangements including securing the door were reached between the organisations.
- A review meeting has been held to review the CDM co-ordination arrangements at London Bridge.
- Planning meetings are being reviewed to include interfaces and requirements.
- The PICOP packs which detail access details are to be shared with Principal Contractors.
- All organisations involved are reviewing the communication arrangements between key roles during nightshift.

General Key Messages:

- Access arrangements to and from work areas should be understood and agreed with any parties responsible for the area
- Clear arrangements should be in place on all sites and on all shifts regarding authority for decision making