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

Issue Number: TLP 021

Title: Mill Hill Broadway Station, Polythene bag removal from Over Head Line, 10th March 2014

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Overview of Event:

A suppliers employee was waiting at Mill Hill Broadway after completing works at another location. As he waited on the Platform he noticed that a Train was stopped outside the station due to Polythene that had become lodged on the Over Head Line (OHL). Following a discussion with the train driver, the employee used a wooden hook switch pole to remove the polythene from the OHL without there being an isolation in place.

Photo: Polythene bag on the Over Head Line



Underlying Causes:

At the time the employee didn't appreciate the seriousness of his actions. When the investigation commenced the employee realised the potential outcome of his well intended action. He now recognises that he should not have intervened and put himself and others at significant risk.

Contributory factors include:-

- **Pressure** - The employee felt pressurised by the public to take action as he was wearing orange PPE and felt that the commuters thought that he could offer a solution. The employee was also assisted by the train driver and station staff to undertake the dangerous activity.

Key Messages:

- Never work with or around live equipment unless the work has been planned and an isolation is in place.
- Always have a valid permit to work where required
- Never undertake an activity unless you have been trained, assessed as competent and have the right equipment and controls in place
- Consider your own actions before trying to be a hero – do not, under any circumstances put yourself at risk