

Train drivers

Issued to: **Network Rail train drivers and Route Services**

Ref: NRL21-01

Date of issue: 27/04/2021

Location: Loughborough South Junction, Neville Hill, Leeds and Bromsgrove

Overview

At 10:57 on 26th March 2020 a train passed a signal at danger at 0.75 miles south of Loughborough South Junction station. The train passed the signal at a speed of about 20mph, and came to a stand around 200m beyond it. The signal was at danger to protect the movement of a passenger service which was just about to leave Loughborough South Junction station.

At 21:41 on 13th November 2019, an empty Intercity Express train, approaching the maintenance depot at Neville Hill, Leeds, caught up and collided with the rear of an high speed train moving into the depot. No one was injured in the accident, but the trailing bogie of the second and third vehicles, and the trailing wheelset of the fourth vehicle of the Intercity Express train derailed to the right, by up to 1.25m.

At 22:44 on 23rd March 2020, the 21:05 a passenger train collided with a class 68 locomotive that had derailed at the end of a siding, south of Bromsgrove station. The passenger train suffered significant damage along one side of all three vehicles, although it did not derail. There were four passengers and two crew on board the passenger train and none reported any injuries.

At 20:00 on 14th December 2019, a train driver who had exited their cab at Tyseley depot walked across sidings and between two trains unlikely realising that they were about to be coupled together. As the driver moved into the gap between the two units, one of the trains moved towards the other. The driver was trapped between the gangways of the two trains and suffered fatal injuries.

Underlying causes

Loughborough South Junction station - The incident occurred as the train was travelling too fast for its braking capability. The braking applied by the driver not sufficient to stop the train within the available distance.

Neville Hill - The collision occurred as the driver of the Intercity Express Train was focussed on reinstating an on board system which he had recently isolated, instead of focussing on the driving task. This was exacerbated by him unintentionally commanding too much acceleration due to his lack of familiarity with the train.

Bromsgrove station - The driver did not stop the locomotive before it reached the buffer stop as he became distracted from the driving task by personal issues arising from the national COVID-19 lockdown announced earlier that evening.

Tyseley depot - The driver did not use the authorised walking route and it is likely that they had not expected the trains to move. The driver who was coupling the two trains was unaware of the other driver's presence when they began the coupling move.

Key message

- Ensure you are focussed on driving.
- Make sure you are aware of the maximum speed for the train operated for the section of line.
- Ensure you are prepared to interact with TMS on IETs.
- Ensure you are prepared after a long absence. Upon returning to work, it is important that TOCs are providing a thorough and documented training needs analysis.
- Check that you are aware of any engineering changes and any changes made to the train you are operating.
- Check you are complying with your company mobile phone policy avoiding unnecessary distractions
- If you are involved in an incident, ensure you exit the train safely, and in a manner that does not place you at risk from trains already on the line.
- In depots - keep to authorised walking routes and be aware of your surroundings - anticipate that any trains close by could move.