

Shared Learning

The Thameslink Programme Issue Date: 8th June 2016 - For further info contact mike.netherton@networkrail.co.uk

Issue Number: TLP056 Title: Contact With Live Conductor Rail

Overview of Event:

On the 19th March 2016, a plant fitter received an electric shock whilst assisting in the craning of track trailers on track near Ewer Street Road Rail Access Point to attach to a Road Rail Vehicle (RRV).

On the last trailer, the pipes of the trailer had some residue pressure left in the system, so the operative bent down to pull the relief valve and as he did so made glancing contact with the conductor rail of an adjacent line and received a shock. He didn't report the accident until the end of the shift .

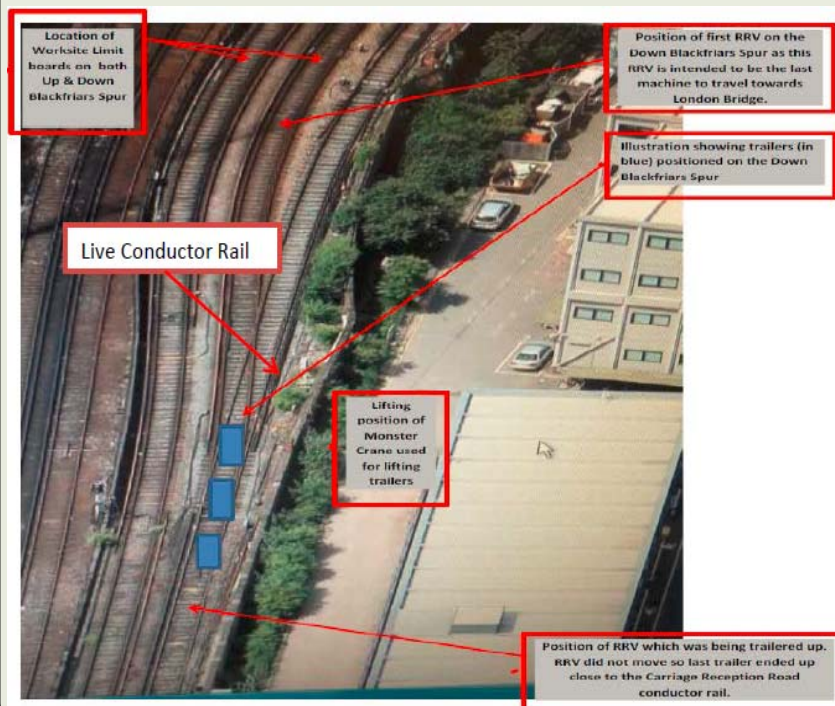
The conductor rail was a live section adjacent to a crossing between the worksite and possession limits.

Causes:

Immediate - The plant on-tracking operatives were unaware that the conductor rail was energised in the area where they were working

Root and Underlying Causes

- The plans (launch plan, etc) to on-track machines and trailers were changed and implications of this were not properly considered
- The track diagram was not sufficiently detailed
- The plant fitter had not signed in or received a briefing
- There was no lead supervision and not all COSS's held equipment to check all conductor rails were isolated



Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- Launch Plans involving more than one RRV to be reviewed and approved by Plant Operating Scheme (POS) Rep.
- All staff receiving Conductor Rail Permits to be in possession of Live Line Testing equipment
- Tier 1 & 2 suppliers to be re-briefed regarding the requirement for all staff to promptly report accidents and sign in & out at Site Access Control including support staff.
- Peer review to be undertaken when methodology is changed.

General Key Messages:

- Changes to plans require robust risk assessment before implementation
- Supervision needs to be clear when there are multiple parties on site
- Support staff need to be briefed and signed in to site