

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 28-14	Document Reference: RSS/F/HSQE/001
	Near Miss-Thatcham	Issue Date: 30/09/14	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Background

Further to an incident that occurred at Thatcham where Zollner LOWS equipment was in use to protect the work activities and a train entered the worksite unannounced.

Clearly the incident is under investigation and at too early to speculate on cause and findings will be communicated following conclusion of the investigation.

Points to note

In the interim period please read the following as a re-iteration of the importance of effective communications associated with all work activities in particular the COSS duties:

Handbook 7, section 4.3 before allowing your group to walk to the site of work or to start work, you must have:

- Set up the safe system of work so that nobody in the group will be put in danger from a passing train
- Tested the safe system of work to make sure it is adequate
- Briefed everyone in the group about the safe system of work

Handbook 7, section 4.7 states:

- You or a member of the group are competent to use the equipment at that location
- The equipment will provide adequate warning of all approaching trains on the line or lines concerned
- You and all the members of the group will be able to stop work and reach a position of safety at least 10 seconds before a train arrives
- You must test the warning before allowing work to start

Best practice communicated on all COSS courses determines that the Signaller must be called prior to work starting to establish if single line or wrong direction movements are occurring at that location