

	<b>Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert</b>	Alert number: 19-15	Document Reference: AMG/F/HSQE/001
	<b>A Safe System of Work for all Possessions, Worksites &amp; Line Blockages</b>	Issue Date: 18/02/15	Author: Steve Milroy

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

**Background:**

Within this week there has already been 4 possession, worksite or line blockage irregularities across the Wessex Route, all of which had the potential to cause significant harm to our workforce.

**7 February 2015: Barnes**

Earthing straps inadvertently made contact with live conductor rail, causing the loss of controls at Vine Road CCTV level crossing. The blockroad man had entered the possession at the incorrect access point. The SSOW pack was collected on the night of the shift, had minimal information and did not have an authorisation number as required when issued on the day of the shift.

**10 February 2015: Oxshott**

Earthing straps were placed in the incorrect location within the worksite causing the level crossing barriers at Cooks CCTV level crossing to activate. A SSOW pack was not in place for the work. Additionally other teams within the worksite did not have a valid SSOW pack.

**11 February 2015: Vauxhall**

The driver of 7J06 struck detonators Down Main Fast line approaching W75 Signal at Vauxhall. The line blockage protection for the line was placed on an open line in advance of the protecting signal as opposed to in rear of the signal.

**11 February 2015: Totton**

The driver of 6C17 come across a blockroad man who was placing protection on the goods loop at Totton which was an open line. The site briefing provided to the blockroad man and the white identification markers made on the sleepers did not match the SSOW pack provided.

**Immediate Action Required:**

For all possessions, worksites and line blockages the following must be considered and in place before work is conducted:

- A valid SSOW pack must be in place before work starts
- The SSOW pack must be correct and checked for accuracy
- The SSOW pack must have an authority number, if issued less than a shift in advance of the work
- You must be provided with a suitable briefing
- You must check that you are at the right location before work starts
- Where isolations are required you must first test the conductor rail and apply short circuiting bar before applying straps.

If you have not been issued with a SSOW pack, the SSOW pack is incorrect, have not been provided with a suitable brief, are unsure of the location, have not tested the conductor rail or have any other concerns

## Stop work and invoke the Worksafe Procedure

Our life saving rules are in place to protect us and our teams from significant harm and all of the rules should be followed at all times. Some of these include:



Always be sure the required plans and permits are in place, before you start a job or go on or near the line.



Never undertake any job unless you have been trained and assessed as competent.



Never assume equipment is isolated – always test before touch.



Always test before applying earths or straps.

Source: Network Rail