

Safety Alert

Sharing information to prevent incidents

Target Audience

All Sydney Trains' workers, including contractors, involved with undertaking routine maintenance inspections in maintenance yards.

Background and Context

Sydney Trains undertakes routine maintenance inspections on their trains in maintenance yards to maintain compliance with prescribed maintenance schedule requirements.

The Issue

On 2 January 2023, brake maintenance on several V-sets was being undertaken in the Mount Victoria stabling yard by members of the Flemington Maintenance Centre.

While completing brake pad replacements on V46, park brakes were sequentially released and not re-applied following completion of bogie set, in addition to the absence or omission to apply other controls. V46 rolled approximately 300 meters, resulting in contact with stabled V16.

This resulted in damage to the couplers, buffer beams and tread plates of both sets. No injuries were reported.

Findings

- Park brakes were manually wound off by brake examiners completing the brake pad replacement. This was done sequentially on all bodies, without re-applying the park brakes on completed bogies or having the wheels chocked.
- Risks associated with work in a non-native environment were not assessed and not appropriately managed.
- Maintenance centre normalised practice of not ensuring brakes are re-applied on each bogie before moving to the next were applied on this job due to the assumption of other controls and redundancies.
- Wheel chocks were not part of the tool kit on the day and not used during this maintenance activity.

Actions taken and further recommendations

- All out-depot work has been immediately ceased unless approved processes are in place for out-depot work by maintenance centre staff.
- The *Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator* (ONRSR) has been informed and risk assessments are being completed for out-depot routine maintenance work.
- Specific controls are being developed and reviewed. These include work instructions, checklists and sign-off sheets to ensure any maintenance work conducted by maintenance centre staff in out-depots is completed safely.
- Assurance activities are being undertaken to confirm maintenance teams conducting out-depot maintenance have the necessary qualifications to perform safety critical tasks such as isolating sets and preparing the work site, applying brakes and stabling cars at completion of work.

Contact your SEQR Business Partner or Line Manager if you have any questions.

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