

## Near Miss involving Rail Safety Worker

### Target audience

Sydney Trains workers, including contractors, who work in the Rail Corridor.

### The Issue

During a recent *Configuration 4 Track Possession* undertaken under a Local Possession Authority (LPA), a **Rail Safety Worker entered the Danger Zone without authorisation as a train was approaching (live line)**. This resulted in a **high-risk exposure to moving rail traffic**, with the potential for **fatality or serious injury**.



Photo 1: Front of train footage



Photo 2: Placement of visual demarcation and signage at the location.

The incident highlights breakdowns in:

- understanding protection arrangements;
- communication between the Protection Officer and worker placing delineation/demarcation;
- situational awareness of train movements;
- task focus; and
- planning.

### Key Message

**An LPA does not remove the requirement to manage the Danger Zone or protect against train movements unless protection conditions fully control the risk. Adjacent live lines and changing operational conditions must always be considered. Effective protection, clear communication, and adherence to Network Rules and Procedures are essential to ensure safety.**

**All workers have a duty under Work Health and Safety legislation to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and to ensure that their actions or omissions do not adversely affect the safety of others.**

**Rail Safety Workers must not enter the Danger Zone unless it is confirmed safe to do so. Workers must not rely solely on the Protection Officer, systems, or others to ensure their safety. If there is any doubt about protection, train movements, or worksite limits, workers must immediately STOP WORK, move to a place of safety, and seek clarification before continuing.**

## What you must do

Before entering the Danger Zone:

- Confirm LPA limits, affected lines and protection conditions.
- Attend and understand the pre-work briefing (worksite limits, Danger Zone boundaries, adjacent line risks, place of safety).
- Do not enter unless protection is confirmed and understood.
- Ensure you have a clear understanding of the task you have been assigned.

While working:

- Workers must remain within the designated safe area and defined worksite limits. This includes maintaining separation from adjacent live lines at all times unless authorised protection arrangements are in place.
- Personnel must not enter the six-foot or foul an adjacent live line to retrieve tools, materials, or debris without appropriate protection and authorisation.
- Work groups are to maintain continual situational awareness during all track work activities, particularly when working near live rail traffic.
- Where attention is diverted by a task, stop working and consider implementing additional controls.

If you have further questions, please contact your Safety Risk and Assurance (SRA) Business Partner or Line Manager.



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