NORTH EAST LINE (NEL)
SIGNAL PASSED AT DANGER (SPAD)
INCIDENT ON 4 NOVEMBER 2023



Rendy Ho Chin Huat, Vice-President
Head of Rail Safety, Security and Emergency
Planning & Head of Rail Risk



About SBS Transit Rail

Our Purpose

Moving People in a Safe, Reliable and Sustainable Way

Our Values



Caring



Adaptable



Reliable



Eco-Friendly













AND TAKE NOTE OF THE 10 SAFE HABITS.

EIGHTEN TEAM SAFETY Look out for your colleagues and ensure they are also following safety practices.





CTIVELY EMBRACE SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY Take personal responsibility for you safety and the safety of others.

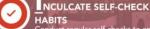
OLLOW SAFETY RULES



DE MINDFUL OF YOUR URROUNDINGS Continuously stay aware of your environment to identify any potential hazards.

throughout the workday





Conduct regular self-checks to ensure you are following safety practices.



OOLBOX BRIEFING BEFORE WORK

Start the day with a safety briefing to ensure everyone is aware of the tasks and potential hazards.



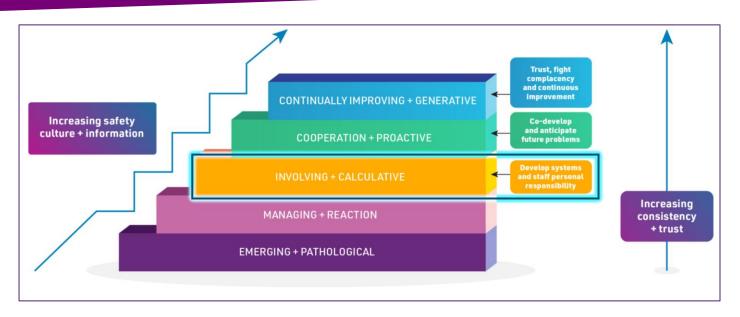
FOR THE VIDEO







Achieving the Gold Standard in Safety Culture



Our Target

The target for SBST Rail Safety Culture Plus Programme remains the Generative Phase (our "Gold Standard")

☐ Technology as a Key Enabler

Technology enables a safer workplace by enriching learning, reducing fatigue, enabling real-time incident response, enhancing hazard awareness, enhancing safe behaviours, and eliminating high-risk tasks

Restricted



Case Study: NEL SPAD Incident (1/4)

When: 4th November 2023 / Where: Sengkang Depot Examination Building E1 Track to Headshunt H2 Track

Who: 29 years old Depot Driver (DD) with 3 years driving experience

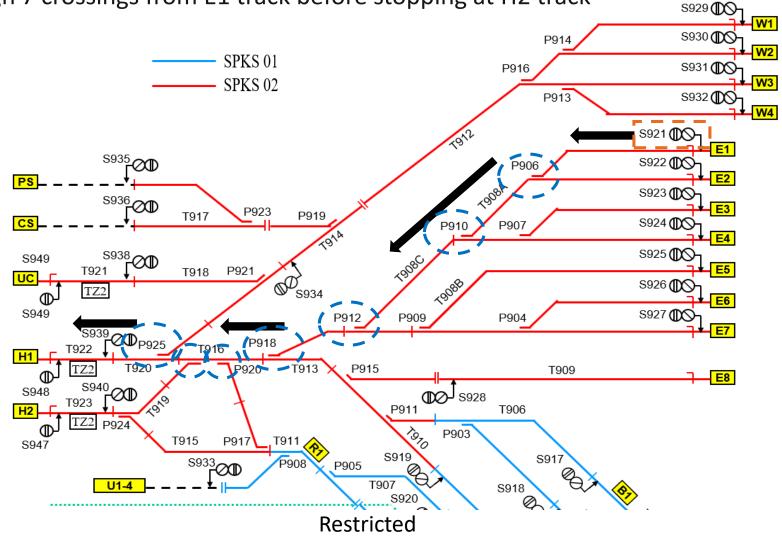
Sequence of Event:

Time	Event(s)
1801hrs	Shift Depot Supervisor (SDS) requested train T20 to be shunted from E1 track to buffer via H2 Track
1805hrs	DD and Ground Shunter (GS) performed checks on train and line clear in preparation for train movement
1821hrs	DD began Restricted Manual (RM) movement without authorisation from Depot Controller (DTC) after opening the Examination Building Train Access Gate; signal aspect in front (S921) was red
1824hrs	Train T20 arrived at H2 track; DD realised he did not seek authorisation from DTC for setting of route for his earlier RM movement
1830hrs	DD attempted to contact DTC via TETRA multiple times but there was no response
1835hrs	DD proceeded to inform SDS of unauthorised movement; SDS managed to contact DTC through Works Coordinator (WC)
1853hrs	DTC returned to his work console and discovered the unauthorised movement reflected on his GWS terminal; a total of 7 unauthorised crossings were made
1902hrs	Track Occupation Authorisation (TOA) was granted for DD to report to SDS office
1953 to 2115hrs	Signalling and Permanent Way staff conducted inspections for damages to the track and point machines caused by the unauthorised movement; no abnormalities found.
2151 to 2205hrs	Train T20 was shunted back to E1 track and Global GAMA was normalised by DTC

Case Study: NEL SPAD Incident (2/4)

■ Movement Path of Train T20

Train T20 passed through 7 crossings from E1 track before stopping at H2 track



Case Study: NEL SPAD Incident (3/4)

☐ PEEPO Investigation Conducted

Investigation found the following basic cause and contributing factors:

Basic Cause	Details
Procedural Oversight	DD did not seek DTC authorisation and route set before opening the Examination Building Train Access Gate

Contributing Factors	Details
Faded Signage	The visual warning sign instructing DD to contact DTC before opening the Examination Building Train Access Gate had faded and was ineffective as a reminder
Distraction by Personal Mobile Device	DD placed a phone on the console, which may have distracted him despite no confirmed usage
Prolonged Absence of DTC	DTC was away from his console longer than expected without informing SDS, delaying response
Medication Influence	DD had taken Anarex, a medication known to cause drowsiness, which may have affected alertness





Faded signage



Case Study: NEL SPAD Incident (4/4)

☐ Corrective and Preventive Actions (CAPA) Taken

The investigation team identified the following actions to be taken:

CAPA	Details
Automatic Gate	Implemented system for DTC to remotely lock / unlock
Control and Monitoring	Examining Building Train Access Gates, utilising Engineering
System	Control as a mean to prevent human errors

CAPA	Details
Improved Signage	Replaced faded signs with brighter, more prominent ones to reinforce safety reminders
Mobile Device Policy	Stipulated all personal gadgets to be kept away during train driving to prevent distractions
DTC Handover Protocol	DTC to ensure handing over of position to SDS or Traffic Controller (TC) before leaving, based on expected absence duration
Medication Influence	Issued circular reminding staff to report medication that may affect alertness and check for side effects with a doctor





Brighter, more prominent signage

Automatic Gate Control and Monitoring System

■ Key Capabilities

Automated gate locking system ensures gates remain locked until amber signal detection confirms route setting, enabling safe manual release

- Integrated visual and audio alerts enhance track safety by warning personnel of train movements;
- Includes a failsafe manual override via bypass key request from Shift Depot Supervisor during power or system failures

Status of Deployment

Handover Date

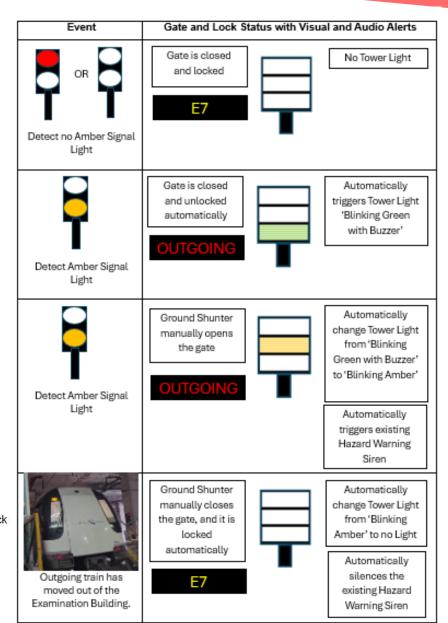
NEL – 18 Feb 2025 Tower light

DTL - 28 Jul 2025

Gate Lock



Restricted



SPAD Prevention Tool - Advanced Video Analytics as Train Eyes (AVANTE) Project

■ Key Capabilities

Serving as an active safety companion, it provides audible alerts and transmits messages under predefined conditions, such as approaching signals, detecting driver drowsiness, and addressing speed limit breaches

■ Status of Deployment

Depot signal head mapping completed for NEL Depot, pending for NEL Mainline and DTL due to site-specific signal variations





Identification of

Red Aspect

Improper Switch Rail Position

Foreign Objects on Track

Abnormal Driver

Behaviour

Restricted



10-10-10 SAFE HABITS





THANK YOU!

Questions & Discussion:



rendyho@sbstransit.com.sg

