

New South Wales Fire Brigades Operations Bulletin 2009/02 Removing power from RailCorp overhead power lines



Scope and application

This Operations Bulletin details the correct procedure for requesting and confirming the removal of power from RailCorp overhead electric power lines when the removal of power is necessary to deal with an immediate risk to life.

Rescue Power Outage

A Rescue Power Outage (RPO) is a rapid, temporary removal of the 1500V DC power from RailCorp overhead lines, and is used when there is a risk to life, such as during a fire or rescue.

A RPO is only a *temporary* removal of power from a section of the power network, not total isolation.

Total isolation is a complicated procedure requiring on-site engineers and can take an hour or more to achieve.



WARNING

Trains may not automatically be stopped on adjacent tracks when an incident occurs. Working on or near the tracks should only occur when trains have been stopped.

RailCorp Commander

When an incident occurs on RailCorp infrastructure, RailCorp will dispatch a RailCorp Commander directly to the scene to liaise with the NSWFB Incident Controller. The time for them to arrive will depend upon the distance they need to travel. They are identified by a "RailCorp Commander" reflective vest.

Requesting a Rescue Power Outage

When removal of power is required the NSWFB Incident Controller must request a RPO through both:

1. the NSWFB Communication Centre **AND**
2. the RailCorp Commander

The ComCen will pass the request for removal of power to the RailCorp Rail Management Centre. Once the power is removed, the Rail Management Centre will give the ComCen an RPO number, which the ComCen will pass on to the Incident Controller.

The RailCorp Commander will also request the RPO through the Rail Management Centre. They will also provide the RailCorp Commander with the RPO number to give to the Incident Controller.

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Confirming a Rescue Power Outage

Until the Incident Controller has received an RPO number from either the ComCen or the RailCorp Commander the overhead power lines must be regarded as live.

Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

Contact Officer	File Number	Date
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Previous Operations Bulletin: 2009/01 — Niagara Foam