

Northern trains delayed by defective train



Thursday 19 January 2012

NORTHERN TRAINS DELAYED BY DEFECTIVE TRAIN

Trains operating on the single line between Strand and Bellville were delayed yesterday morning, 19 January 2012, as a result of train number 3204 breaking down in section near Faure Station. The breakdown happened shortly before 6am yesterday and resulted from a phenomenon called a flash over. The 3000 volt overhead high tension power tripped, causing a significant flash and smoke above the motor-coach. Lindelo Matya, regional manager of Metrorail Western Cape explained what commuters and bystanders would have witnessed: *'Understandably occupants would have been concerned about the loud noise and the sight of what appears to be flames. It was not an on-board fire but could have been construed as such'*. No injuries were reported.

Trains in both directions were affected by the incident and significant delays were recorded – the *Business Express* was delayed by 87 minutes. The line capacity contributed to the delays as the defective train had to be removed to clear the line.

The line was declared safe at 11:35 and normal operations resumed. Matya said technicians would report to him on the probable cause of the flashover: *'We regret that our customers have had to be delayed in this fashion – I assure them that our teams consider the incident in a serious light and will adjust their maintenance regime to minimize the chances of a recurrence.'*

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