

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

FALSE PROCEED SIGNAL REPORT

REPORT FOR (month/year)

June 1997

DATE

July 9, 1997

REPORTING CARRIER (railroad & region or division)

Norfolk Southern Corporation  
Division - Alabama

REPORTING OFFICER (signature/title)

Chief Engineer - Western Region  
Communications & Signal Dept.

All railroads subject to Regulations of the Federal Railroad Administration shall submit a false proceed signal report, original only, to the Federal Railroad Administration within five days after a false proceed occurs. If no false proceed occurs during any calendar month, a report showing "No Failures" must be filed within ten days after the end of the month.

Copies of this form will be furnished upon request to the Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, Office of Safety, Washington, D.C. 20590

MAIL TO

Federal Railroad Admin.  
Suite 440, North Tower  
1720 Peachtree Rd., NW  
Atlanta, GA. 30309

A failure should not be counted more than one time in items 1, 2, 3, and 4; the failure should be classified under the basic system or appliance of which it forms an essential part. E.g.: assume grounds cause a block signal to indicate a false proceed causing corresponding indications of a cab signal system on each train approaching this point, such failures should be included in item 1, Block Systems.

A false proceed failure is a failure of a system, device or appliance to indicate or function as intended which results in less restriction than intended.

The following abbreviations may be used in the report.

- A—Automatic
- AB—Automatic block
- ACS—Automatic cab signal
- APB—Absolute permissive block
- ATC—Automatic train control
- ATS—Automatic train stop
- CL—Color light
- CPL—Color position light
- E—Electric
- EM—Electromechanical
- EP—Electropneumatic
- FP—False proceed
- MB—Manual block
- M—Mechanical
- P—Pneumatic
- PL—Position light
- SA—Semiautomatic
- TC—Traffic control

TYPE OF SYSTEM	DATE	LOCOMOTIVE NUMBER	DEVICE THAT FAILED	LOCATION (city and state)
1 BLOCK SYSTEMS <input type="checkbox"/> AB <input type="checkbox"/> APB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TC	6/25/97	6594-8971	human error	Parrish, AL
2 INTERLOCKING <input type="checkbox"/> REMOTE <input type="checkbox"/> MANUAL			DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION RECEIVED  JUL 11 1997  ATLANTA, GEORGIA	
3 AUTOMATIC SYSTEMS <input type="checkbox"/> ATS <input type="checkbox"/> ATC <input type="checkbox"/> ACS				
4 OTHER (specify)				

NATURE AND CAUSE OF FAILURE/CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN

At approximately 11:49 PM, Train No. 152 (crew- , ), running east on signal indication, derailed on the west end of No. 2 power crossover at Parrish, MP NA-95.6.

The west end switch is a facing point move for eastbound trains. Though the route requested and the signal indication were for a straight move, the west end switch was found to be locked up in the reverse (crossover) position. The east end switch of this crossover was locked in the normal position. TC logs showed a normal indication for this crossover since about 3:00 PM that day.

Investigation revealed that a combination of two wiring errors in the Parrish signal bungalow resulted in this incident. The first error, precipitated by an outsider cutting some of the underground cabling, resulted in the crossover correspondence relays being controlled only by the condition of the east end switch. The west end of the crossover had been erroneously patched out of the correspondence circuit. The crossover had apparently been operated this way without incident since June 10th. Then sometime presumably during the early afternoon of June 25th, the motor control straps (in the bungalow) were inadvertently removed from the west end switch while it was in the reverse position. Then when the Birmingham dispatcher requested the crossover normal at about 3:00 PM, the east end threw normal and, due to the first wiring error, picked up the normal switch correspondence relay in the bungalow. The west switch stayed locked up reverse since motor control was absent. With the crossover in this condition likely three trains, running on signal indication trailed through the west switch running westbound on the main track. The trains and approximate times were: No. W73 at about 4:01 PM, No. 319 at about 6:01 PM, and No. 191 at about 8:06 PM. Marks found on the switch point following the derailment indicated that the switch had been run through by at least one westbound move on the main while the switch was laying reverse. The point was probably bent open by this action, and this set up the condition for a derailment on the next eastbound train.