A Why-Because Analysis of the Power Outage on the Swiss Railways, 22 June 2005

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On the 22nd of June 2005, an accident happened to the Swiss rail system. Locomotives and trains operate mostly on electrical power, provided through overhead wires. A sequence of operational mistakes cut the electrical power supply network of the entire railway system into two parts, which could not be controlled by the dispatchers. In the end, the whole power supply system broke down and most Swiss rail traffic could not operate any longer. The presentation gives an overview of the rail electrification system in Switzerland, and a step by step rundown of the events leading to the break down. Finally, a Why-Because Analysis shows the root causes.