



11kV PIN INSULATOR FAILURE DURING LIVE LINE WORK

OVERVIEW

A Hot Glove team were in the process of installing an in-line section and Fuse Savers on a 11kV intermediate pole. During the works the feeding circuit breaker tripped on an earth fault. Work had paused at the time due to weather conditions. There were no injuries.

DETAIL

On the 10th of October 2024, live line team were building a set of fuse savers on an 11kV intermediate pole. As part of the work, an earth connection had been installed on the pole top steelwork. During the course of works, it began to rain and the team stopped working until the weather had passed. It was during this period that centre phase pin insulator failed, causing the circuit to trip.

An investigation will take place to determine the learning points and these will be communicated in due course.

Without prejudice to the investigation, this bulletin is a reminder to all Live Line teams of the requirement to thoroughly assess the condition of all pole mounted equipment and fittings, when undertaking Live Line works.

For more detailed information, please refer to Section 2 of the UKPN Live Line Manual.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Thoroughly examine the pole to be worked on and all insulators, conductors and fittings prior to commencing work.
- Continue the examination for at least one span in every direction from the point of work.
- Test all steelwork on poles supporting Live conductors prior to commencing work.
- Live Line work should not be started in unfavourable weather. If unfavourable weather develops during the work, the work shall be made safe and then suspended.
- In the event of a significant incident during Live Line work, stop work and make safe as quickly as possible.



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| Primary communication via Line Manager complete by (X) | X | 1 week | | 2 weeks | | 1 month |
| Additional communication (X) | | Learning points | X | 1 st 15 | X | Team Brief slide |
| Line management must ensure appropriate employees understand the content of this document within the timescale shown. This document is subject to compliance audits after the communication deadline. | | | | | | |