

Date of Event: 28/05/2025

What Happened?

An experienced distribution line mechanic (LMD1) received a 230V shock to the leg from the exposed end of a live LV cable, that had just been cut to length, during a de-energised pillar replacement task. The lineperson was uninjured other than experiencing the shock.

What do we know?

A work party of two were assigned to complete a de-energised pillar replacement task on an alternate outage date.

The Site Supervisor (LMD1) had reported poor weather conditions and not wanting to do the task. The Field Supervisor brought a new tent to the site and the work party agreed to continue.

LMD1 identified the transformer isolation point (CCT 2) indicated on the NAPA was incorrect (lights still operating at customers houses after CCT 2 fuses removed) and subsequently removed the yellow and blue phase fuses from CCT 1 – notably the red phase fuse was not present, and the fuse carrier looked burnt out - refer photo 1 below.

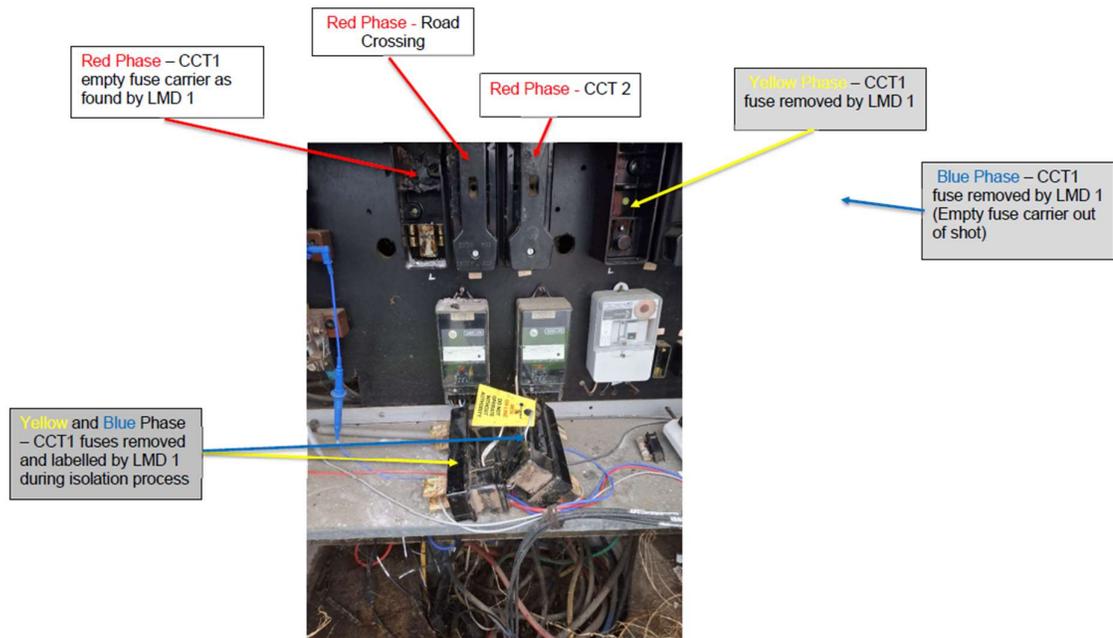


Photo 1 - TC4-037 with yellow and blue phase fuse removed from CCT 1 and labelled by LMD1

LMD1 was not able to apply earths to the fuse carrier so elected to continue the work adopting live work methods – wear insulated gloves and control cables.

LMD1 opted to use a Modiewark proximity tester at the pillar because of not wanting to use his multi-function contact tester in the wet conditions.

LMD2 spoke up regarding the effectiveness of the testing but was ignored by LMD1.

LMD1 had cut the yellow phase cable and taped the exposed end and then cut the red phase cable. LMD1 lost control of the cable, and the exposed end contacted his leg.

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The investigation identified the red phase at the pillar was being fed from the Road Crossing CCT at the transformer after an unknown party had transferred the cable – refer photo 2

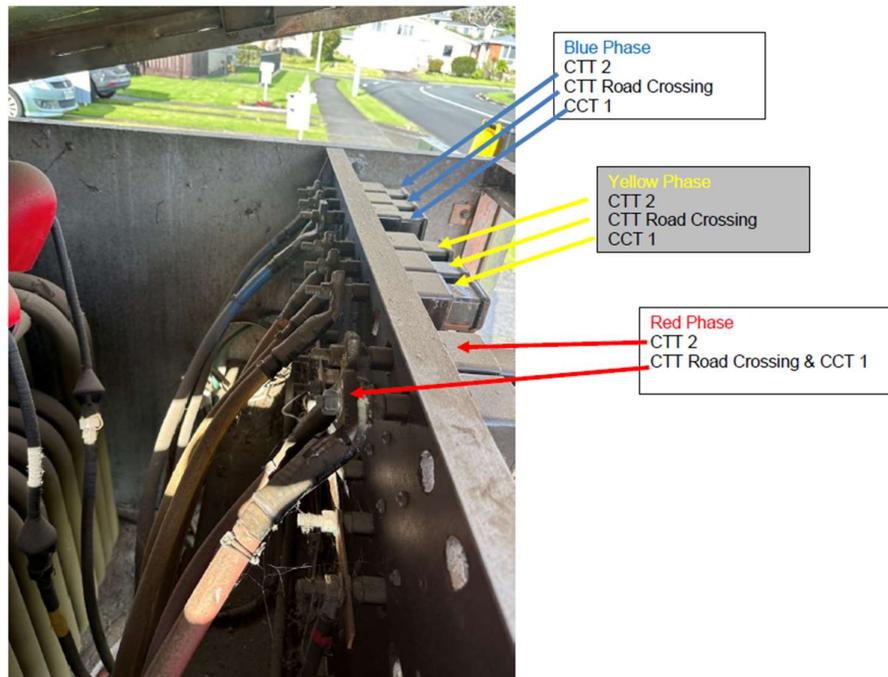


Photo 2 - TC4-037 illustrating red phase bonding of CCT 2 and CCT Road Crossing

What to do?	Who	By when
Site made safe - work completed using live methods, defective assets labelled and reported to Powerco	NPE Supervisor	28/05/2025
Communication to employees – the non-negotiable requirement to only use correct testing methods and test equipment to prove isolations	NPE HSEQ Manager	13/06/2025
Communication to employees – re-enforcing empowerment to “Speak Up” and raise concerns beyond immediate work site if required	NPE HSEQ Manager	13/06/2025
Communicate to employees – importance of reporting asset defects/accurate as built information	NPE HSEQ Manager	13/06/2025
Safety Alert issue	NPE HSEQ Manager	09/07/2025

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