TRANSPOWER

FIRST ALERT

Uncontrolled access into substation sites

Recently two incidents have been reported involving uncontrolled access into substation sites.

In one case a Service Provider found the road gate unlocked when entering an unoccupied substation site.

In the second more serious case, a council inspector arrived at a substation site unannounced to inspect building work underway in the relay room. He was able to gain direct access into the relay room via an unlocked gate in the controlled area and an unlocked door at the rear of the control room. The lock on the control room door had not been engaged to allow free ingress/egress. There was no road gate at this site.

Note unauthorised access to substation sites is a potential health and safety risk and must be controlled by always ensuring:

- Road gates are locked when sites are unmanned
- Road gates are closed but not locked when personnel are on site for emergency access and escape purposes
- Restricted areas such as switchyards, other HV enclosures and buildings are kept secure unless the entrance gate or door is continuously kept under close supervision

Immediate actions

- In the first case the entry log was checked to identify who was last on site. They were contacted to remind them to always double check the road gate was securely locked before driving away.
- In the second case the inspector was intercepted by the work crew when he unexpectedly entered the relay room. He was taken through the pre-start and offered appropriate PPE. However, he chose to leave and was escorted offsite. The incident is under investigation.

For more information, please contact:

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