

People - Safety Incident Alert

Incident – Electric Shock

Date: 16 July 2020

Vault #: 8463

What happened?

An Orion Network Operator (N/O) arrived at a worksite and proceeded to assess Low Voltage – reconnection work to be undertaken. He decided to isolate the work area, and this required two High Voltage (HV) 11kV transformer dropouts be opened that were feeding the (pole mounted) transformer at the site. The N/O reached his working position and commenced the isolation of the transformer, after this action the N/O made momentary contact with the upper section of the stay wire and experienced an irritation on his left-hand side cheek, it happened again a short time later, but this time it was felt as a minor shock. The N/O stopped work and had a closer inspection at the pole hardware above his working position and found that a HV jumper was in contact with an eye bolt.(see opposite)



Finding: There is a deflection on the HV jumper near the eye bolt (see above), the most plausible cause for this issue is impact by wildlife, e.g. birds or opossum/s, this interaction is the probable catalyst for the HV jumper being compressed downwards thereby making contact with the eye bolt. It is acknowledged that the N/O's view of the pole top and hardware e.g. jumper configuration during his initial risk assessment was restricted from the ground, hence the hazard of the jumper in contact with the eye bolt went unseen.

Learnings and recommendations:

- Formal WorkSafe notification (online) of the event has been made by Orion
- A Safety Advice is to be developed and issued to the wider business for awareness and learning
- The configuration of the HV Jumper/s at the site have been rectified and no longer present a hazard
- Ensure that a Risk Assessment is thoroughly performed before work is commenced (Refer SM-EI / 3.303)
- Always review and confirm that your hazard controls, are fully effective (Refer SM-EI / 3.303)
- Ensure that PPE requirements are appropriate for the activity being undertaken (SM-EI Part 2 Section 13 – PPE)

People Safety Incident Alert - Form 21582 For further information please contact QHSEinfo@oriongroup.co.nz
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