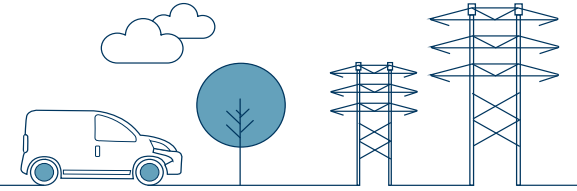
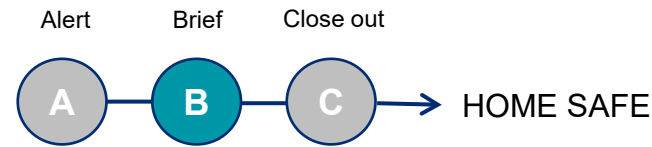


SHE BRIEF

Secondary Fault Causing Flashover During Excavation



Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

Operatives were tasked with a low voltage fault repair, during the excavation works a fault occurred. This was believed to be a secondary fault as the original fault had been located and marked up on the opposite side of the link box. Upon investigation it was found that there was no secondary fault on the network and the fault had been marked up in the incorrect position.

Had the team completed the correct network checks they would have found that the fault was on the side of the link box that they were working on. Fortunately, there were no injuries, and full PPE was being worn.

Supervisors, line managers and operatives are reminded to refresh themselves on and reference the below documents when dealing with faults on the LV network.

[PR-NET-OSM-066](#) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK ON THE LOW VOLTAGE SYSTEM

[PR-NET-OSM-067](#) WORK ON DAMAGED OR FAULTY LOW VOLTAGE CABLES

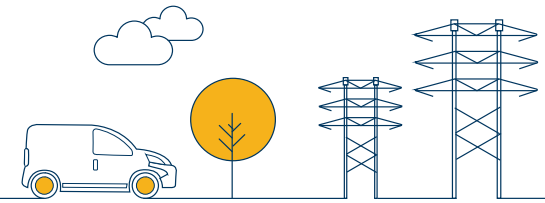
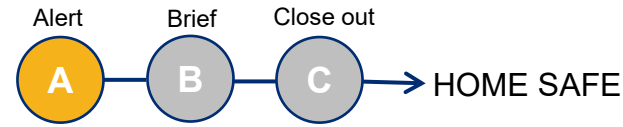
[PR-NET-OSM-070](#) MANAGEMENT OF FAULTS ON THE LOW VOLTAGE SYSTEM

- **Plan**, Ensure the correct job pack is issued and understood.
- **Scan**, Location of Cables, ensure all cables records are available and cables marked up onsite.
- **Adapt**, Be prepared to apply your safety licence, and re-evaluate the risks at all times.



SHE ALERT

Secondary Fault Causing Flashover During Excavation



Date of incident	01/06/2026		Directorate	Services	
Region	SEPD Customer Ops North	Location	Frome	Classification	Potential to be worse
What happened ?					
During Fault Investigation work for a faulty link-box, our operatives identified the fault to be on the far side of the link-box. They proceeded to excavate a joint hole at safe distance away from the suspected fault location, they then proceeded to hand dig to expose the cable, where an unexpected flashover occurred due to a secondary fault. At the time of the flashover, full arc rated PPE was being worn and performed as anticipated and approved insulated tools were being used. This ensured that our operative remained safe and unharmed. <u><i>This incident is currently under investigation; however, it is important to remind all personnel to:</i></u> • Plan, Wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment, refer to stage 1 POWRA and job pack. • Scan, Location of Cables, ensure all cables records are available and cables marked up onsite. • Adapt, Be prepared to apply your safety licence, and re-evaluate the risks at all times.					

