SAFETY BULLETIN

A SAFETY INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE



High Risk Tasks: Injury to colleague due to corroded porcelain pin insulator	
Issued to:	All Operational Colleagues and Service Providers
Date of Incident:	1st April 2026
Location:	Witton Gilbert, Durham, DH7 6TU
Classification:	Staff OSHA with Medical Treatment
Contact:	Health Safety and Training
Issue Date:	20th April 2026

OVERVIEW

An overhead line team were undertaking work to replace pin insulators using hot-glove techniques. The pin insulator had been removed and passed down to the operative positioned on the ground to remove the pin from the insulators at a safer level.

To release corrosion on the pin, the linesperson tapped the component using a hammer. They then placed their left hand around the outer pin to maintain grip and positioned their right hand on the top section to turn the porcelain insulator in a clockwise direction.

As the insulator was turned, it unexpectedly disintegrated. A fragment of the insulator penetrated the lineperson's glove and caused a cut to the back of their hand. First-aid treatment was initially provided however the injured party was taken to Durham Hospital by an accompanying colleague. The wound was cleaned and required three stitches and the colleague returned to work.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Corrective Actions Taken:

- **Correct choice of PPE for the task at hand. Link to NPg Sway PPE Handbook. *Sway***
- **Eureka 13-4 Gloves to be worn when work has the risk for lacerations and these gloves have a higher cut and puncture resistance rating. These gloves are available to view and order through the ppe portal.**

Commendable Take Away

- **Pro-active response from team on issuing first aid treatment on site, ensuring the welfare of the injured person and taking them to hospital.**

Safety Reminder

- **It's important that colleagues are wearing the correct gloves for the specific tasks they perform at work. Wearing the wrong safety gloves won't protect the wearer from all the potential hazards in their environment**

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