



Safety Advice 05-2012 (Feb)(NZ)

Switching Incident 27/02/2012

A planned switching operation was being carried out at a substation to enable a substation electrically adjacent to be isolated for planned maintenance work. A switching schedule was prepared by the Network Control Room (NCR) as the required sequence of operative actions.

During the switching sequence, the ABB SDAF3 Series 2 switchgear experienced an internal fault and oil was expelled via the fuse cover panel on the top causing the employee to be splattered with the oil discharged from the switchgear and exposed to an arc flash from the electrical failure.

Investigations are under way, and the following interim instructions were issued by the Network pending completion of the investigation.

'ABB SDAF3 Series 2 Ring Main Units shall not be operated live for any switching operation. Contractors are also advised that a safety alert has previously been released to the industry on the switching of ABB/Andelect SDAF3 Series 1 units. If switching is required on any SDAF3 ring main unit it shall be de-energised from the remote ends and the unit operated de-energised, including earthing, fuse replacement and padlocking operations. The ring main unit shall be re-energised from a remote end once the required switching configuration has been achieved.'

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