Safety Advice 05-2012 (Mar)(NZ)

Switching Incident - 03/03/2012

Whilst a Faultman was inserting links into a Magnefix Ring Main Unit a flashover engulfed him causing moderate burns.

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

'Magnefix Ring Main Units are to have the links caps and the fixed portion contacts visually inspected following removal from the unit and also prior to insertion of links during switching, to ensure that no part of the contacts has become dislodged or broken. If the link cap or fixed contacts are observed to be broken, misaligned or appear different from usual, the unit is not to be switched. Likewise, if during switching the operation is not easy to complete, or the caps are difficult to insert, the switching operating shall be halted, the Network Control Room notified and switching shall be achieved using switchgear at other locations.

Contractors are also to observe the Manufacturer's instruction to only switch the units using the spring assisted switching handles - either single phase or three-phase. Switching operators are not to insert links without the use of the spring assisted handle.'

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