



# *Safety Advice 03-1999 (NZ)*

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## **OIL FILLED RING MAIN UNIT ACCIDENT**

On 11 November 1999, an electrician faultman received serious burns when an 11kV oil filled ring main unit exploded when he was carrying out switching operations. It would appear that the live switch was inadvertently closed into the earth position and then opened, drawing a fault arc under oil which caused the switch to explode.

The switchgear was extensively damaged as was the tiled roof of the substation building.

The electrician faultman received severe burns to the neck and back from the burning oil.