

Safety Advice 09-2006 (NZ)

September 2006 - Line Mechanic Fatality 400V

Overview of Incident

On Thursday, 31 August 2006, a line mechanic foreman received a fatal 400 volt electric shock. The work involved carrying out dead work (the unit had never been livened and was still under construction) to ready a new re-closer for livening. The crew were working outside Minimum Approach Distances ('MAD'). After completing this work, the two crew members descended in an EWP through live 400 volt conductors. Once the EWP basket was below and clear of these lines the operator stopped ready to retract and lower the boom to the ground. At this stage it appears the line mechanic foreman made hand to hand contact with two of the 400 volt conductors and received a fatal electric shock.