

**Newsflash - 2016 06****20 April 2016**

Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work

## Single Phase Cutout - Crutch Cover

A Meter Operative has recently been injured as a result of an electrical flash over which occurred due to possible shrink back of the conductor insulation at a domestic, single phase cut-out service position. The operative was installing a new meter at the time of the incident and had already removed the old one. Fortunately the operative only sustained minor burns to his wrists but did attend hospital for a check up. He was wearing appropriate PPE for the task in line with his company procedures. The outcome of the incident could clearly have been much worse.

The incident has highlighted a cable make off procedure that utilises a PVC crutch shroud to replace the traditional cut-out base supplied with the unit (see example pictured). This type of crutch termination is utilised where there are access restrictions making the standard cut-out base difficult to fit. This alternative method of terminating a service cable due to access restrictions has been used in place of the supplied covers. The preformed PVC crutch shroud slides over the termination prior to it being connected and is a loose fit over the crutch of the cable.

All Northern Powergrid cut-outs are supplied with a plastic cover which should be installed over the incoming cable and crutch termination as they enter the terminations of the cut-out to prevent unauthorised access or inadvertent contact.

In this particular incident, if the supplied crutch cover had been used the flash would have been enclosed and the exposure of the meter operative to the resultant flash would have been significantly reduced.



**The use of the pre-formed PVC crutch cover is no longer the accepted practice to make off cable terminations and is no longer trained at our training schools. However, some units may still be available in local stores and some may still be out in the field, those should be removed from service. In the unlikely event the supplied crutch cover cannot be installed you should seek advice from your manager.**