

Issued to:
Location:

SAFETY BULLETIN SB 4/2016

Linesman Cut Through Live Overhead CNE Service

Background

As part of an ongoing scheme to underground an open wire LV line within a housing estate, an overhead team were dismantling three spans of open wire overhead line. Access to the pole tops was undertaken using a MEWP. One member of the team cut through a CNE service and a flashover occurred resulting in the linesman receiving burn injuries to their thumb and forearm.

Detail

The open wire LV line had been isolated and earth bonds applied on a previous date. An underground cable had also been laid and energised to replace the redundant overhead line. Two CNE services from the underground cable, ran up one pole in the span to be removed to supply a street light and also a property. The linesmen had received a written work instruction which specified dismantling of the open wire overhead line but didn't specify that there were live cables on the pole.

In undertaking the dismantlement the linesmen cut the service cable without properly identifying it, proving it Dead or using live working techniques.

Follow-Up Actions

- When working on any part of the LV distribution network all work should be carried out in accordance with ST:OS4 - cables shall be treated as Live until proved Dead at or near to the point of work.
- If the situation where Live and Dead apparatus in the work zone cannot be avoided, work instructions should communicate clearly, all safety critical information, including the status of all Live apparatus.

This bulletin is issued without prejudice to any investigation.