

SAFETY BULLETIN SB 6/2016

Failure to Apply an Additional Earth

Background

An overhead line team started work on a pole without applying an Additional Earth that was required for the work, against connected customers on a 'T-off' spur. Two Circuit Main Earths had been correctly applied to the main line.

Incident

The overhead conductors on the pole had been isolated and earthed following an approved outage. As a pole mounted transformer connected at the end of a teed spur was non-linkable the low voltage network was not isolated. As per DSR 4.3.5, in situations like this an Additional Earth is required between the connected customers and the point of work.

A Permit to Work had been issued correctly for the work to take place and listed the required Additional Earth. The working party were clear on their roles and they had been briefed by the document recipient correctly. The document recipient however used a MEWP to start work on the conductors on the pole without applying the Additional Earth.

Reminders

1. A Permit to Work must be fully complied with as it details the control measures in place to mitigate the hazards associated with the work to be carried out and detailed on it.
2. As stated in ST:OS2F "The application of Additional Earths and cross bonding equipment Shall be the responsibility of the recipient of a Safety Document".
3. Where customers are to remain connected to the system rule 4.3.5 of the Distribution Safety Rules must be followed.
4. Failure to observe the precautions stated on a safety document may give rise to potentially life threatening conditions.