

Issued to:
Location:

SAFETY BULLETIN SB 1/2015

WPD Jointer had a Near Miss after damaging a LIVE 11kV cable.

Incident Details

A WPD jointer had a near miss when he accidentally damaged a live 11kV cable whilst working on an adjacent de-energised cable in close proximity to it.

Following identification and spiking of a faulty 11kV cable the jointer, who was wearing appropriate PPE for the work, prepared the cable ends for jointing. To allow phase colour identification through a faulty straight joint, he cut the cables either side of the joint using a reciprocating saw. Whilst carrying out this activity the blade of the saw damaged a live 11kV cable that passed underneath at 45 degrees. This resulted in a flashover away from the jointer and as a result he received no injuries.

Learning Points

An appropriate risk assessment shall always be undertaken when using a reciprocating saw near to any cables and apparatus. Where LIVE cables are in proximity to the work area they need to be protected from inadvertent contact.

The blade of the saw shall be visible to the operator at ALL times during the cutting operation.

Follow-Up Actions

All staff who operate on the underground network to be briefed about this incident and the learning points.

This bulletin is issued without prejudice to the investigation, or anybody involved in this incident.