

FOR ISSUE TO NETWORKS

SHE ALERT

SWITCHING INCIDENT

A second serious operational incident has occurred within SSEPD in a short period of time.



What happened?

Having received switching instructions from the Network Management Centre to apply Circuit Main Earths to a section of dead and isolated main bus-bar at Shin Grid Substation, a flexible earth was inadvertently applied to a section of live 132kV bus-bar. A flashover occurred onto the portable earth lead, no injuries were sustained and protection operated tripping the circuit.

The incident is now under investigation and the key learning points will be issued when available.

What action is required?

All staff should be reminded about signing in and out of sub stations, notification of entry ESC - **0845 303333** and the **NMC number relevant to your business.**

When carrying out switching ensure you are at the **correct location – positively identify where you are** prior to commencing work. If you are distracted or circumstances change during switching operations **STOP** and re assess the situation. Ensure you confirm location and operation.

Ensure full PPE is in use as per matrix WI-PS-969 when HV Switching on all types of Pole / Structure mounted equipment. This includes switching on Auto Recloser control boxes, ABSD's (all types) and motorised isolators. This applies both to switching on O/H lines and in all Substations including **Grid and Primary** locations. PPE will always require the use of **Dielectric Wellingtons or Over boots during switching operations.** The level of Electric Arc Protection and Protection Levels are covered in WI-PS-969.

All staff should wear **Flame Retardant Clothing**, when working in any environment where there is a risk of being exposed to flame or electric arc. This could either be as part of their normal duties or when an unexpected event such as an error, transient fault or equipment failure occurs.

Please refer to the following guidance documents for more information:

- PR-PS-541 Approved Procedure for Demarcation in Substations**
- WI-PS-969 PPE Requirements for Live Working**
- PR-PS-580 Approved Procedure for Fitting and Removal of additional earths to tower lines at 33kV and above**
- Operational Safety Rules Section 4**

Communication by (✓)	LSG		Notice board		Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	

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