

For issue to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

SHE COMMUNICATION

Notification of fatal injuries by UK Network Operators.

Introduction:

We have received tragic news from two different UK Network Operators reporting two separate fatal injury incidents involving contact with electricity.

While the incident details have yet to be confirmed, we are aware that the incidents covered both Transmission and Distribution voltage levels and are reported as occurring while individuals were carrying out routine tasks that were part of the usual work activity. One incident is reported to be associated with Live Working on a Low Voltage underground service cable, and one incident is reported to be associated with the completion of earthing operations in a substation containing low-level high voltage bus-bars.

The incidents are currently under investigation by Regulators, being supported by the Network Operators and, while the details are not yet fully known, there are immediate reminders that we can apply to our activities and operations and ensure we operate in a safe manner. We will share more information when it is issued by the respective companies.

Reminder:

Work on the electricity network is inherently hazardous and therefore robustly controlled to minimise the risk to persons involved. The mitigation of the risks is primarily achieved by the strict implementation and compliance with our Operational Safety Rules and associated Approved Procedures.

These tragic fatal injury incidents, and the electrical incidents SSEN has experienced this year, provide a hard-hitting reminder of the need to continuously comply with a few fundamental operational safety requirements:



- Work and/or operations on the SSEN electrical system must always be carried out in-line with the Operational Safety Rules and associated Approved Procedures.
- Work on Live conductors can only be considered after a Live Working justification has been completed.
- Work on Live conductors must always be completed by competent/ appropriately authorised persons in strict compliance with Live Working practices.
- Substations containing exposed Live High Voltage conductors are hazardous environments and therefore all work and/or operations in such environments must always be completed in strict compliance with the respective requirements.
- Operational Safety Rule 1.7 should be used to communicate un-safe conditions if on-site escalation is not effective.
- All operational persons must comply with their responsibilities as outlined within Operational Safety Rule 1.9 – ignorance of duties cannot be used as an excuse for non-compliance.

Briefing:

All SSEN managers must ensure this communication is shared with their employees and contract partners.

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

Issued by: Andrew Roper, Designated Engineer

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