

Urgent attention bulletin

Friday 6 February 2015

Operational Restriction – High Voltage Fuse Switch Units

On Tuesday 3 February 2015 a serious incident occurred at Galleria shopping centre, Morley, Western Australia. The incident involved an explosion associated with the private electricity distribution network within the shopping centre.

Several persons (contractors working on the private network) were injured during the incident and tragically two persons have since died from the injuries they sustained during the incident. Our thoughts remain with those involved and their friends and family members.

WorkSafe WA and EnergySafety are investigating the incident and will share learning when they can.

As a precautionary measure, pending the conclusion of the investigation, Western Power has implemented the operational restrictions listed below. These restrictions come into force with immediate effect and remain in place until further notice:

- The restrictions listed below apply to all operations on all Long and Crawford/ GEC/ ALSTOM high voltage oil insulated fuse switch units (e.g. GF3, T4GF3, etc).
- These restrictions apply to fuse switch units; they do not apply to associated oil switches, e.g. adjacent ring-main unit switches.
- There are no additional restrictions regarding general access to substations containing high voltage oil insulated fuse switch units; or the visual inspection of high voltage oil insulated fuse switch units.
- All operations on high voltage oil insulated fuse switch units shall be completed with the high voltage conductors feeding the fuse switch remotely isolated and earthed; and the transformer side of the fuse switch unit isolated and, where practicable, earthed. In practice this means that isolation and earthing on the distribution network side (upstream) of the fuse switch shall be achieved at remote substations. On the transformer side (downstream) of the fuse switch, isolation and, where practicable, earthing shall be established via all connected low voltage transformer links/ fuses/ circuit breakers.
- Prior to re-energisation of a high voltage oil insulated fuse switch unit; the substation within which the fuse switch is housed must be vacated and secured to prevent any person from accessing the substation whilst re-energisation takes place and for a period of at least 30 minutes after re-energisation of the respective fuse switch.
- Re-energisation of a high voltage oil insulated fuse switch unit shall be completed via a remote switch.

(Note - for clarity the term 'where practicable' in this situation means - if there is an approved earthing facility on the low voltage side of a transformer, it shall be used).

Formal Leaders and Contract Managers are required to communicate this information to their employees and contractors without delay.

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