

SIGNIFICANT ELECTRICAL SAFETY INCIDENT ADVICE



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DATE OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT: 04/06/03 DATE OF INITIAL TRANSMISSION: 2/7/03	ESAA NUMBER: 26/2003 ESAA DATE OF TRANSMISSION: 03/07/03

Brief description of accident/incident (include voltage):

Two Network employees were in the process of proving a fault on a section of 12.7 kV single-phase cable in a single-phase underground distribution system (SPUDS). They established that the fault was in either the cable or the last Transformer in a run of three.

Without approved access, a Network employee attempted to disconnect the earth screen from the earth bar of the Transformer with a combination ratchet spanner. The Transformer was alive and the "out" port was exposed. As the spanner was swung up towards the perpendicular there was a flash and explosion as the 12.7 kV discharged through the Network employee's right index finger on the spanner and exited at his left index finger and thumb.

The Network employee was wearing pigskin gloves that had clear pinhole entry and exit points.

Extent of injury/damage

The Network employee sustained minor burns to his right index finger and left index finger and thumb. He also sustained minor lacerations to his face where he struck a post and rail fence when thrown clear.

Severity of incident: Categorised as Potentially Fatal.

Local action taken:

Western Power Corporation has commenced an investigation into the incident. The incident was reported to Energy Safety.

Additional comments:

Western Power Corporation reminds all employees and contractors of the:

- requirement to maintain a clearance of 380 mm from live 22 kV (12.7 kV single phase) as per Electrical Safety Instructions Manual 3.2.1 Table 1
- requirements of the Switching Operators Manual, Volume One, Section 5, Appendix 5, SPUDS Isolation of HV Cable Section

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:

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