

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT ADVICE

ESAA 27/2002

DATE OF INCIDENT: 25 April 2002
ETSA UTILITIES REFERENCE NO:FS 45

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1
(INCLUDING THIS SHEET)

Brief description of incident:

On Thursday 25th April 2002, a TSWE had connected and energised the main switch (Circuit Breaker) to the main switchboard at the basement of the old David Jones building in Rundle Mall, Adelaide.

The TSWE was standing near the bus bar enclosure wearing overalls, helmet and glasses as per 3G1 ready to carry out sequence testing after the main CB was closed. When the Electrician closed the main CB, there was an explosion from within the bus bar enclosure, which tripped the CB. On investigation it was found that the Electrician had left a small metal spirit level across the bus bar which had flashed to earth via the bus bar supports.

After further inspection and assessment, the bus bar was re-energised and the connection completed.

Extent of actual damage:

The TSWE felt the heat of the flashover on his left ear and had a ringing sensation in his ear from the explosion.

Minor damage was caused to the customer's installation.

No employees injured.

Additional Comments:

All the appropriate testing procedures as per the Job Safe Working Procedure for customer connection work, including receiving the ECC form were carried out.

The bus bar had been energised previously and was isolated to carry out alterations for the new connection.

The metal spirit level had been accidentally placed on to the bus bar after testing procedures had taken place.

Local action to be taken to address any hazards:

- Managers / Co-ordinators to discuss details with employees at next work group meeting.
- Copy of Field Services Safety Alert to all notice boards.
- Debrief all work groups on the benefits of wearing PPE.
- Reinforce all checking and testing procedures for all types of work..

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:

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