

# TXUAUSTRALIA SAFETYGRAM

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## ESAA 39/2002

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| <b>DATE: 29/08/02</b>             | <b>TXUAUSTRALIA SAFETYGRAM</b> |
| <b>DATE OF INCIDENT: 29/08/02</b> | <b>REPORTED BY: Tenix</b>      |

### Details of Incident:

#### CONTACT WITH 22Kv ISOLATOR

Line workers were instructed to remove a faulty Nulec ACR unit. Previously another work party had closed the bypass switch and side isolators. The operator confirmed the isolators were open and proceeded to earth the unit to facilitate the removal of the ACR unit.

After applying a flexible earth to the bottom flag bolts of the load side isolators, the operator then applied an earth to the supply side White and Blue phase isolator bottom flag bolts. While earthing the bottom contact of Red Phase supply side (OPEN) isolator, the flexible earth got caught on part of the pole structure. The Operator applied some additional force to the HV stick to attach the earth. The flexible earth became free from the obstruction resulting in the Earth Clamp moving past the bottom flag bolt and resulted in the earth lead coming into close proximity of the top contacts of the isolator causing a flash-over. The flashover caused the 22kV feeder to trip to lockout as the Auto Reclose function was suppressed for this work.

### Extent of injury/damage:

Nil injury

Serious near miss.

### Action taken:

Interim measures are to re-emphasize:

- That observers remain at least six metres clear from the pole
- That controlled body movements are essential to this process
- That regular reassessment of the situation is required.

### Additional comments:

A comprehensive investigation has been initiated.

### Severity of incident:

**FATAL:** Potential to have caused death

**HIGH:** Potential to have caused serious injury, permanent disability, ill health or serious damage to plant and equipment.

**MEDIUM:**

**LOW:**

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