

SIGNIFICANT ELECTRICAL SAFETY INCIDENT ADVICE



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Western Power

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DATE OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT: 27 December 2002 DATE OF INITIAL TRANSMISSION: 03/02/2003	ESAA NUMBER: ESAA DATE OF TRANSMISSION:

Brief description of accident/incident (include voltage):

Following storm damage in a country location a 3 man metropolitan line-crew went to assist in the restoration of supply. During the repair of a 12.7 kV single phase HV 'T-off' pole that had sustained pole top fire damage, a lineperson received an electric shock. The electric shock occurred when the lineperson was in physical contact with the earthed phase and the aerial running earth. An electrical storm was within 1 km of the work site and a lightning strike may have caused the electric shock.

It was found that the number of portable earths was inadequate and their installation did not comply with country system earthing requirements.

Extent of injury/damage

The electric shock injury resulted in soreness in the midriff and arms. Initial medical attention was provided at the local district hospital.

Local action taken:

- Conduct risk assessments when electrical storms are forecast or occurring in the vicinity of their work location.
- Produce a Branch Instruction detailing the approved actions for controlling lightning hazards.
- Where a running earth is available draw attention to the requirement to apply and bond portable earths to each conductor, the running earth and to the portable earth spike.
- Portable Earths must be fitted to ensure protection from all possible live sources of supply and earth spikes must be driven 600mm into the ground.
- Safe work practices must include the need to avoid coming into physical contact with two non-insulated conductors.

Additional comments:

- Further detail on earthing requirements can be obtained by referencing the Western Power Switching Manual section 8.9.1.
- Information on "Working Safely in Wet Weather Construction Industry" can be obtained by visiting <http://www.safetyline.wa.gov.au/PageBin/workhazd0014.htm>

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:

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