



## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT ALERT

**esaa Safety Gram number 12/2005**  
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**Details of Incident:** Scheduled meter change at premises in Chandos St, St Leonards, as part of Type 5 upgrade project.

Approximately 10 minutes after re-energising, the new meter failed with arcing and an explosion.

After the meter was de-energised, burning continued within the instrument.

The NSW Fire Brigade were called to the scene to extinguish the flames.

Subsequent investigation revealed that 315 amp HRC service fuses on B & C phases operated.

Meter involved was manufactured by EDM I and model type was a Mark 6 EDW. The meter was a whole current type with a rating of 100 amps.

**Extent of injury/damage:** Apart from superficial carbon damage to the switchboard, all damage was limited to the meter.

**Action taken:** EA and manufacturer are investigating whether the incident was caused by defects in the meter design/ manufacture. Extensive testing at Lane Cove Test Station to try and simulate fault. Ceased installation of this meter type. Quarantined all current stock. Alternative types of meter being installed. Review of fusing policy for whole current meters. Additional systemic corrective action to be determined based on further manufacturer and EA analysis.

**Additional comments:** Two other EDM I Mk6 meters (that had been in service for several weeks and for 10 months) failed, arcing in a similar manner, at two other premises during April 2005.

Initial investigation by manufacturer failed to identify any specific fault in the meter. Manufacturer to continue investigating meters for potential sources of failure or latent defect.

Incident may have risk management implications for other network operators.

**Severity of incident:** Minor smoke and fire damage to premises. No injuries sustained.