

SIGNIFICANT ELECTRICAL SAFETY INCIDENT ADVICE



Western Power

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT ALERT

DATE: 27/10/2005

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1
(INCLUDING THIS SHEET)

DATE OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT: 20/07/2005

Brief description of accident/incident (include voltage):

A Nilcrom type fuse holder was originally installed on a wooden cross-arm of an LV (440V) distribution pole, and connected the LV supply to the overhead service cable of a property in the town of Mullewa.

A fault occurred in 2003 where the fuse had blown and supply lost to the property. Subsequently the Nilcrom type fuse holder was disconnected (i.e. both insulated wires to the fuse holder were cut away), and a new Flowline type fuse holder was installed and connected to restore supply to the property. The now redundant Nilcrom type fuse holder (known as a Nilcrom Box) was left attached to the cross-arm by the original wood screws.

On 20/07/2005 the redundant Nilcrom type fuse holder fell off the wood pole.

The attachment via wood screws failed due to a combination of factors including wood rot around the screws caused by exposure to weather, and high wind loading conditions.

A person underneath the pole at the time reported being hit upon the head and shoulder, and subsequently attended hospital.

Extent of injury/damage:

Person reported being hit on head/shoulder, and attended hospital.

Local action taken:

A program of inspections and removal/replacement of redundant pole hardware in the town of Mullewa has commenced, and shall be completed by 30 November 2005.

The appropriate WPC operating instructions and construction standards shall be revised to require:

1. Removal of a Nilcrom Box at the time it is disconnected and made redundant and
2. A visual check of any other redundant Nilcrom Boxes be performed during a disconnection/reconnection task; such that any Nilcrom Boxes that present a significant hazard of falling from the cross arm, are then removed.

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:

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