

Safety Gram



ABN 89 064 651 109

ESAA 17/2003

AIM

To increase safety awareness affecting safe working practices and to provide Incident/Accident information sharing between centres.

TIME / DATE / LOCATION

- 10.00am
- 3.3.2003
- Dooen South Road, Horsham

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Live line stick crew were replacing the damaged road-side post 11-shed 66kv insulator on a concrete pole, when the tail of the tie contacted the fifth shed of the insulator causing a flashover. Line protection caused cb to trip to lockout immediately - the radial 66kv line was off supply for approximately 5 minutes.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO INCIDENT

Length of conductor tie tail. (Work practice to be reinforced to ensure length of tail is kept to a minimum).

Decreased insulator integrity.

LOCAL ACTION TAKEN

Ceased work & investigation immediately commenced. Other sites in file assessed (insulator condition) prior to further work proceeding. Work practice immediately modified to minimise tie tail length by regular cutting & in some cases by cutting tie in-situ & lifting conductor clear prior to untying. To be tabled at next Work Group & Health & Safety meetings.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Though Powercor High Voltage Live Line Manual does not provide specific guidance for working on damaged 11 shed 66kV post type insulators the basic principles outlined in section 'Insulator Integrity Provisions To Conduct Live Line Work' Page 19 apply.

FURTHER ACTION

Where reduced insulating properties are known or suspected, work electrical hazards such as flash over, step and touch potential may exist. Appropriate safe work practices should be adopted such as:

- Thorough risk assessment.
- Consider use of an insulating cover or guard ie 'Chinaman's hat'
- Ensuring insulator tie lengths are kept to a minimum.

Increased HV 'stick work' is to be undertaken in annual refresher training especially in areas with radial 66kV lines.

Information on work practices for 66kV insulators exhibiting damage to be included in revised Powercor HV Live Line Manual.

POTENTIAL SEVERITY (Fatality, Permanent Injury, Minor Injury)

Permanent Injury

- Please discuss at Work Group Meeting.
- Copy to all notice boards printed on yellow paper.

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Date: 6.3.2003