

TXUAUSTRALIA SAFETYGRAM

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ESAA 42/2002

DATE: 10 September 2002	TXUAUSTRALIA SAFETYGRAM
DATE OF INCIDENT: 20/08/02	REPORTED BY: Tenix

WORKER STRUCK BY POWDER FILLED FUSE

Details of Incident:

A crew was sent to a HV fuse fault at a VicRail metering structure. On arrival the crew found the centre phase 3 amp HV powder filled fuse (white phase) had blown (cause unknown). A crew member then changed the blown fuse and attempted to close the new fuse but he had trouble getting the fuse to latch. After several attempts, the crew member thought the fuse was latched and removed the HV operating stick. When he removed the operating stick the latch fell open. The latch swung open and 'bounced' when hitting the bottom stopper of the fuse unit causing the fuse to be dislodged and fall towards the worker's head. The worker raised an arm to protect himself and the fuse struck his raised forearm. The fuse then broke on contact with the worker's forearm causing a laceration to the forearm of the worker. The worker was wearing a shirt, jumper and sleeveless overall at the time of the incident

Extent of injury/damage:

Stitches required for laceration to forearm

Action taken:

Incident investigated

Initial action is to review the positioning of workers performing this task

Reinforcement of the need to wear protective equipment at all times and ensure that exposed limbs are covered wherever possible

Additional comments:

Severity of incident:

MEDIUM: Potential to have caused temporary disability or minor damage to plant and equipment.

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