



Safety Advice 07-2000 (B) (NZ)

LIVE LINE GLOVE & BARRIER INCIDENT

On Saturday, 22 August, at approximately 12.15pm, an incident occurred at ABI No HU5/3 whilst being installed by a glove and barrier team. The weather was fine and compatible for live line work. The crew of four are all qualified in this live line discipline and held appropriate competencies.

The ABI was installed, adjustments made for correct operation, locked closed and leads were being attached from the top of ABI to the line when a flashover occurred. It was during the connection of the 5th lead, being centre phase south, that the flashover occurred between the coiled lead and pedestal under nearest insulator. The previous four leads were already connected.

There appear to be two main factors that could have prevented flashover during connection of No 5 lead and the company is reviewing their glove and barrier procedures used.

- (a) There was insufficient cover up being used. A split blanket must be used around the insulators of ABI's during connections/disconnections thus covering all fittings in the immediate work area within reach at a different potential.
- (b) The procedure being used, G and B 011B, specifies installing leads with ABI in the open position. The coil on top of the insulator is always de-energised until contact with phase is made.
- (c) The flashover distance of approximately 320mm may have been influenced by the introduction of an object into the work area (ie possibly the worker's hands).