Lessons Learnt

BEST IN SERVICE, BEST IN SAFETY

Incident Title: Flashover of J Type Fuse

Date of Incident: Monday 26 September 2016

Incident Description and Details:

A fault technician was attending a call of no power. Two ruptured J type fuses were found at the local transformer. In the process of replacing one of the fuses, a flashover resulted. The cause was a cable fault and "rocking" the fuse into the fixed contacts. The fault technician was wearing appropriate PPE; full face shield, insulating gloves and FR work wear. No injury resulted.

Recommendations/Lessons:

- Remove the ruptured fuses and check no back feed is appearing on the load side of the fuse.
- Replace fuses in carriers and ensure fuse holding screws are tight and the black fuse carrier toggles are fully undone. Lubricate contacts of the fuse and J type assembly with petroleum jelly wearing insulating gloves.
- Hold fuse carrier slightly out from the fixed contacts and "punch" in. **Do not rock the fuse** as the barrel of large fuses is likely to contact the fixed contact resulting in a potential flash over in the event of a faulted cable.
- In the event a cable fault exists, do not attempt to remove the fuse. Allow the fuse to do its job. (This may even take out the 11kV high side fuse.)
- Check no back feed is appearing on the load side of the remaining removed fuses.
- Repeat replacement as per bullet three.
- This pillar style is gradually being replaced as part of asset replacement with NH fuse frames.

For further information contact the WEL Networks Health and Safety Team