SAFETY ALERT

HV Switching – Near Miss

Date: 22-10-24 | Safety Alert: SA-017-22-10-24
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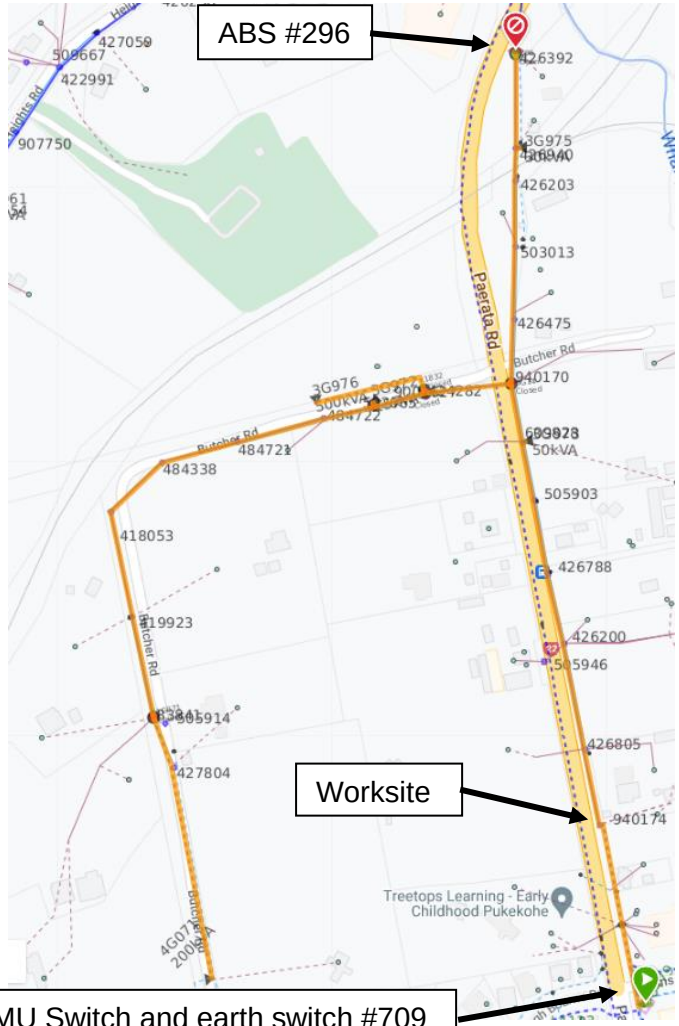

Background

- Planned work was taking place to reinstate a gap in an HV OH Line.
- A planned switching instruction was compiled, with 5 personnel checking & signing the sheet.
- The isolation and permit involved an ABS (#296) and an RMU switch (#709), with the RMU earth switch closed and serving as the issuer earth.
- Prior to restoration switching, the NOC responsibilities were handed over to a different operator.
- The work was completed, and the team proceeded with the planned restoration switching.

What Happened

- NOC instructed the field switcher to remove the lock and tag from the ABS, and close the ABS.
- The field switcher stopped the work and advised NOC that the RMU earth switch remained closed.
- An error was made during planning, where the step to open the earth switch was omitted.
- This error was not detected during the switching instruction checking/signing process (5 personnel, incl the field switcher that finally detected the issue on site).

Learnings

- **Checking/Signing:** The checking of switching instructions is a critical planning process and must be completed with precision before any person signs the switching instruction.
- **NOC Handover:** When an NOC handover occurs between operators, it's critical that the status of the network and all active jobs are discussed in full.
- **Stand in the Gap:** The field switcher was attentive to the job at hand and spoke up with NOC when things didn't seem correct, preventing an incident from occurring.