

Safety Alert - Electrical

Polish Paper Mill Fatality

Electrician Electrocuted in HV Substation

Description of Accident

During routine maintenance inside a 6000 volt electrical switchroom, which included the cleaning and maintenance of the bus bars and circuit breakers, a contract electrician was fatally injured.

The work was controlled under a permit system however, the issuer of the permit failed to include the back up electrical supply on the list of hazards contained within the permit. In addition, two other electricians had been given the task of making the equipment and area safe. (Isolation, earthing & testing). One of the electricians was also responsible for supervising the contractors work.

The deceased commenced work on the electrical panel, assuming that all electrical supplies were isolated. However, he failed to 'test for dead' before touching the conductors. He came into contact with the back up electricity supply, which had not been isolated, tested for de-isolation and earthed. This resulted in the electrocution of the contractor.

Actions to prevent recurrence:

Identify and label all hazardous energy sources

De-energise, isolate, block and/or dissipate all forms of hazardous energy before work commences

Establish 'Lock-Tag-Try' test procedures that require operators to secure control devices with their own individually assigned locks and keys

Ensure that the operator who installs a lock is the person who removes it when all work has been completed.

Inspect any repair work prior before re-activating the equipment

Ensure that all operators are clear of danger points before re-energising any equipment

Ensure that all operators are competent in the basic concepts of hazardous energy control

