SAFETY ALERT A94

Stay Safe

UK Power Networks
Delivering your electricity

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SECOND FLASHOVER INVOLVING A METAL CLAD CUT-OUT IN 2020

The 'What you need to do' section has been updated.

OVERVIEW

A second flashover involving a Heavy Duty metal clad cut-out took place on the 12th September 2020.

Without prejudice to the subsequent safety investigation, the following changes shall be implemented with immediate effect.

Although the investigation determined the exact cause of the flashover, the following guidance does not constitute learning points.

DETAIL

Whilst undertaking work on a three-phase metal clad cut-out, a flashover occurred resulting in burns to a UK Power Networks employee.

The injured employee was taken to hospital for treatment for burns to their arms and hands. This incident was a Lost Time Injury.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- **No activities other than the insertion or removal of fuses and/or testing shall take place on Heavy Duty (above 100 amps) metal clad multi-phase cut-outs with the incoming cable live. These activities may only be carried out if the phase barriers are in position, undamaged and are not removed. HSS 40 031 Work on Low Voltage Service Terminations refers.**
- **On metal clad multi-phase cut-outs up to 100 amps, the removal and insertion of outgoing meter tails can take place with the incoming cable live, if they are terminated using grub screws and the work can be done without removing, dislodging or damaging phase barriers. If the cut-out has bolted and/or lugged connections it shall be made dead.**
- **For the avoidance of doubt, all sections of the phase barriers must be in place and never be removed from any live cut-out.**
- **When undertaking any quotes or designs, steps shall be taken to replace any metal clad multi-phase cut-outs. EDS 02-0045 Replacement of Service Cables and Service Terminal Equipment refers.**
- **Ensure that the guidance in Safety Alert A88 is followed at all times when removing or replacing metal clad cut-out lids.**

It is the responsibility of line management to ensure all appropriate employees are issued with this document and to check their understanding of its content. This document will be subject to compliance audits within 14 days from the date of issue.