

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place



Electrical fire - staff injury

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRB 20/21

Date of issue: 24/12/2018

Location: Godinton Substation
(Between Ashford and Staplehurst)

Contact: Dave Allen, Route Safety Manager, South East



Overview

Whilst E&P staff were attending to a fault at Godinton Substation on the evening of the 20th December there was a release of electrical energy (Flashover) when a member of staff attempted to replace a 750V, 2 Amp fuse which had blown earlier.

The flashover caused severe burns to the injured person. He attended hospital and was transferred to a specialist burns unit where he is being treated for his injuries.

The substation was substantially damaged by the fire that resulted (photograph above).

An investigation into the accident has begun and further information will be shared once it is complete.

An immediate technical bulletin was distributed to Routes on 21st December. That advises no-one should enter the breaker cell in a Whipp & Bourne MM74 DC Circuit Breaker unless the incoming power is de-energised.

In the meantime staff are reminded when working with or around electrical equipment to always follow the life saving rules and consider the following points below.

Discussion Points

Never assume any equipment is isolated - always test before touch.

Always test before applying earths to electrical equipment.

Work Package Plans, task briefings and appropriate test documentation for the work must be in place and understood by all involved.

Always have a valid permit to work where required.

Always wear the right PPE for work in electrical switch rooms including Arc Protective Clothing where appropriate.

If at anytime the work cannot be undertaken safely, STOP and speak with your Supervisor or Manager.

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