

No: IGS 226

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Accidents / Incident Response in electrified areas: **SWITCHING OFF THE ELECTRICITY IN AN EMERGENCY**

This bulletin is for the attention of:

All employees and contractors who work on Network Rail Infrastructure in electrified areas.



Background:

A member of staff suffered an electric shock when he came into close proximity with live overhead line equipment (OLE). The formal investigation into this accident has identified that immediately after the accident the correct Rule Book procedure was not followed. This bulletin is published as a reminder of the immediate actions following an emergency situation when working in electrified areas.

Action Required:

1. IMMEDIATE ACTION

You must immediately contact the ECO if you become aware of any of the following occurring;

- o a derailment
- o a lineside fire
- o a fire on a vehicle or train
- o a person in contact with or in danger of coming into contact with the OLE/CRE
- o damage to the OLE/CRE
- o an incident or other emergency requiring, or likely to require, the electricity to be switched off
- o an emergency evacuation of passengers from a train (CRE only)

2. REPORTING THE EMERGENCY

When you contact the Electrical Control Operator the first thing you must say is;

'THIS IS AN EMERGENCY CALL'

Once you have established you are talking to the correct person, you need give the following information;

1. where you are speaking from
2. your name, job & employer
3. the line or lines concerned
4. the location, e.g. the nearest bridge, station, signal or other structure
5. the number of the nearest OLE structure or identifying plate (OLE only)
6. the telephone number or radio call number the ECO can contact you on
7. whether short circuit bars have been applied (CRE only)
8. the reason you are asking for the electricity to be switched off
9. **whether any person is in danger from live OLE/CRE**
10. whether the emergency services are waiting to give assistance

Make sure you have the telephone number of the correct ECO with you at all times when you are on or about the line in an electrified area. Contacting the ECO immediately an incident occurs is crucial, this enables the ECO to understand what is happening on the electrical network and enables the right action to be taken for the circumstances, prevent re-energisation and appoint the best person to lead the emergency isolation.

Ref documents: GE/RT/8000 Modules AC and DC. Sections 5 and 6.

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