

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Colleague suffers electrical burns whilst wearing watch

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

Ref: NRB 15/06

Date of issue: 27/03/2015

Location: Kent

Contact: [Matt Bowey](#), Function Lead (Distribution)



Overview

Whilst changing defective diodes within a rectifier cubicle at High Brooms Substation, a member of staff suffered minor burns to his wrist and lower arm.

Although low, the residual voltage on the busbar was sufficient to drive a high current through the watch strap causing the injury.

Although wearing gloves, the staff member's metallic wrist watch strap was exposed and made contact with the negative busbar and the earthed equipment housing.

Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- What are the risks you face when working on electrical equipment?
- How do watches and jewellery increase the risks?
- Why was voltage present on the negative bus bar?
- What changes to our policies and ways of working might help us all to reduce the risk?
- What can you do to cover non-removable jewellery?
- What else can we personally do to reduce these risks?