

Safety Bulletin



Fatal Injury to Electricity Industry Worker

It has recently been reported that on Monday 30th January 2017 a 21 year old male employee of a UK electricity Distribution Network Operator received fatal injuries while working on an underground cable system in an excavation.

The details of the incident are currently subject to an investigation being conducted by the employer and the authorities. Our thoughts at this time remain firmly with the family, friends and colleagues of the deceased.

Specific information regarding the cause and learning from this incident has not yet been released. However, this event serves as a tragic reminder that the work carried out on our Distribution and Transmission networks is potentially hazardous, and that we all have an obligation to ensure safe outcomes.

General reminders:

1. Risk assessments must be completed before work commences. These must involve all members of the working party. No work shall proceed until all members of the working party are in agreement with the working arrangements.
2. All live working must be justified and be undertaken in strict accordance with the Distribution Network Operator requirements. Cables and conductors should always be treated as live until proved dead.
3. Tools and equipment used to undertake work must be in strict accordance with the Distribution Network Operator requirements.
4. PPE must be must be worn in strict accordance with Distribution Network Operator requirements.
5. When staff are providing "Personal Supervision" to other staff, and need to leave the work position for whatever reason, they will instruct and ensure that any individual(s) who are operating under that Personal Supervision leave or move away from the work position to a point where there are no hazards present.
6. Assess the work environment regularly and look after yourself, your colleagues and the public.
7. Never ignore a hazard or poor behaviour; if you see it, you have an obligation to address it.
8. If at any time you are not sure of what you need to do, then STOP and ask for help or guidance.

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