

Electric shock to member of staff

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

Ref: NRB 17/19

Date of issue: 06/09/2017

Location: Grahamston Functional Supply Point (FSP)

Contact: [Simon Constable](#), Head of Route Safety, Health and Environment, Scotland Route



Overview

On the morning of 7 August 2017 a staff member, who was part of a team investigating a signalling power supply feeder fault affecting Grahamston feeder, received an electric shock, while working on a Functional Supply Point (FSP).

The isolator within the FSP was switched to the off position. While in the off position the staff member contacted the Section Supervisor, to re-energise the protection device for Grahamston feeder which had again tripped out on fault.

The staff member then opened the 650V isolator door believing the electrical supply was isolated. The staff member removed the barriers from within the isolator in preparation to access the terminals and prove that the electrical supply was indeed isolated.

While reaching for their insulated gloves and test meter the staff member lost their footing and stumbled with their hand coming into contact with the live terminals. It is understood they received a shock for between 3 to 5 seconds.

The staff member spent two nights in hospital where it was also confirmed they had broken a finger on their left hand although it is unclear if this was as a result of the electric shock or the subsequent fall.

Following the accident it was found that the staff member was working on a feeder that was always 'live' and functional.

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team.

- Are signalling power distribution diagrams available to determine the electrical feeding extent and the isolation points? Are these compliant to NR/L2/SIGELP/27417?
- What are the procedures and precautions which apply to checking if low voltage electrical equipment is isolated?
- Which lifesaving rules apply to this work activity?
- What precautions must you have in place before removing terminal covers / barriers which will then expose potentially LIVE electrical terminals and conductors?
- What precautions do you take to avoid from slipping or stumbling at work?

Copies of Safety Bulletins are available on [Safety Central](#)