

11kV Depot Cable Strike

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

Ref: NRB 18/18

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Location: Holgate Depot York

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Overview

On the 15/11/18 at 11:30 hours an electrical contractor received burn injuries due to an electrical high voltage flash over while working in the depot. The Injured Person (IP) suffered burns to their left forearm and right hand which required hospitalisation and ongoing medical treatment.

The incident occurred when the IP was cutting into redundant cables using a power tool to remove them. The electrical cables being cut were considered "dead" as an agreed isolation was in place; however this was not the case and during the works the 11kV cable strike occurred.

Discussion Points

While the incident is under investigation we should all consider the dangers when working on or near high voltage cables:

- Has your task been thoroughly planned?
- Have the survey and records accurately captured all electrical conductors?
- Have the safety arrangements been reviewed by a competent person?
- Has all necessary safety information including permits and isolations been included in the Work Package Plan and Task Briefing Sheet?
- Are the briefing arrangements in place to ensure workers have and understand how to keep themselves and others safe?
- How do you make sure that you and your colleagues comply with the Life Saving Rule of "always test before touch"?

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