

Fatal Portable Earthing Incident

Issue date	26/08/2020
Issued by	Paul Turner, Head of Safety & Policy
Applicable to	All colleagues and contractors

A fatal incident has occurred in another Distribution Network Operator (DNO) area.

The incident occurred whilst a DNO maintenance team were working on a transmission outage. A DNO colleague was in the process of applying a portable earth to an air insulated busbar when contact was made with a live conductor. The information provided so far does not indicate why or how this happened. The DNO colleague received a fatal electric shock which also resulted in a fall from height.

The HSE and DNO are currently carrying out investigations to determine the root causation.

Key points to remember:

- Incidents occur when control measures fail
- Carry out all tasks in accordance with Code of Practice and Distribution Safety Rules
- Always undertake tasks with the application of defensive behaviours
- Always wear the approved personal protective equipment for the task being undertaken
- Always follow CP606 S14 and Distribution Safety Rule 4.3.
- Approved earths according to CP684 Section 6 and ES378 shall always be used.

For anyone affected by this incident please remember that we have a confidential Employee Assistance Programme that you can use by calling 0800 0305 182.

