

SPIKING OF HV CABLES

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Applicable to	All operational Electricity North West staff and contractors

During work to loop in a new substation, a live 6.6kV cable was spiked in error resulting in an explosion and subsequent injury requiring hospital treatment.



An investigations is ongoing, and further details will be issued once know. In the interim, authorised personnel are reminded of the need to follow approved procedures at all times.

Key Points to Remember:

- It is the responsibility of the Senior Authorised Person (SAP) to ensure all HV cables to be worked on are identified and proved dead. Ref DSR 5.9.2 and CP606 B02 - 1.2/3.0
- At the point of work, all cables shall be exposed for identification. Ref CP606 B02 - 2.1.3
- An approved spiking procedure shall be used to identify the cable. Ref CP 606 B02 - 1.2/1.3
- If the visual tracing method is to be used, the cable to be identified shall be visually traced along its entire length from a point where it is connected to earth to the point of work. Ref CP606 B02 - 2.3.1
- Where the visual tracing method is restricted, the cable can be identified by placing a ring of suitable material around the cable from a point where it is connected to earth



and passing it along the cable to the point of work. Ref CP606 B02 - 2.4.1

- Before the cable is spiked the SAP shall ensure that the lanyard is extended to at least 7 metres, and all ENW staff, contractors and members of the public are at a safe distance. Ref CP606 B12 - 2.1.3
- The SAP shall control the lanyard operation and spiking procedure. Ref CP606 B12 - 2.9
- PPE identified for the task being carried out shall be worn. Ref Standards for Personal Protective Equipment