

Safety Alert

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Subject: Electrical Burn – Removal of Safety Devices

What Happened / Narrative

The IP was tasked with resetting the operating panel for a 690 V AC anti heeling pump. Whilst doing so he received an electrical burn to his middle finger when he reset the breaker switch.

- No work or maintenance was getting carried out on the inside of the cabinet so no PTW/isolation (the breaker was the method of isolation).
- The breaker was never 'live'. The burn was due to heating of the breaker due to being the incorrect rating. Our electrical personnel carried out numerous simulations and calculations to confirm this.

This resulted in a First Aid Case and the IP was provided with medical care on board.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

- Rotary isolation switch within the electrical cabinet was broken and had been removed
- Failure to follow defect reporting procedure
- Due to missing isolation switch, direct contact had to be gained internally to reset breaker
- Failure to follow defect reporting procedure
- Lack of hazard awareness and risk perception
- Lack of consideration for safety devices

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- The cabinet was locked off until an investigation was initiated and it was confirmed safe to proceed.
- A new rotary isolation switch was fitted to the breaker switch.
- All similar cabinets on board were checked and rotary switches fitted as required.
- A full-on shore investigation was initiated due to the perceived potential severity.

Upon further investigation, we found that a change in the cable length after the cabinet from the system design to new build meant that the breaker was insufficient and had a tendency to heat up. This was also replaced.

Photographs / Supporting Information



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