

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance and Practices



Alert Number: SA04_18

26 February 2018

Ausgrid Network Fatal Risk 1.2 – Live low voltage work

Definition of a network fatal risk

A network fatal risk is a situation or event that has the potential to result in a fatality with the electrical distribution industry if established controls and defences are ineffective.

1.2 Live low voltage work

Wear an insulating glove and an outer glove on each hand and protective eye-wear. Apply temporary insulation or screening to all other exposed conductors.

To work on live LV mains and apparatus, all of the following conditions are required:

- Only a trained and authorised person can carry out live LV work
- You must assess all live LV work and prevent any accidental contact with other live conductors, neutral conductors, earth conductors or earth by using approved precautions
- You must wear an insulating glove on each hand, safety eye protection, and any additional personal protective equipment (PPE) required when working on live LV mains and apparatus.

Ausgrid has identified a continuing trend of ASP incidents relating to live LV work procedures. It's concerning to see no improvement in the numbers for this type of incident with the potential for catastrophic ramifications when live work is undertaken.

Scenarios observed for incidents relating to live LV work include:

- Short circuit with non-insulated tool when work in live ABC link box
- Electric shock received from HDPE cable as a result of unsatisfactory safety precautions when working in close proximity to cable
- Incorrect or nil insulation or screening installed on exposed conductors
- Incorrect application of required PPE worn when working on live LV mains and apparatus, resulting in electric shock

Action Required

ASPs to communicate to all authorised employees, supervisors and project managers the correct requirements for live low voltage work as per Ausgrid's Electrical Safety Rules.

Ausgrid Project Officers