

ASP Safety Alert Network Compliance & Authorisations

Alert Number: SA02_22

16 February 2022

Subject: Street light mains maybe connected from multiple sources

Key Messages

Streetlighting circuit neutral conductor connections must not be broken until the complete street lighting circuit is visually inspected to confirm:

- a) there are no luminaires connected to any section of neutral conductor planned to be disconnected; and
- b) any remaining sections of street light neutral conductor are bonded to the low voltage distributor neutral.

If this is found to not be the case, ASP Lineworkers are to install neutral conductor bonds on remaining street light sections, or disconnect luminaires, prior to breaking the street light neutral conductor connection

Dear ASPs,

What Happened?

As part of a Low Voltage (LV) pole changeover in Marrickville, a cross connectivity between the Overhead (OH) LV distribution network and the OH LV streetlighting circuit has created a hazardous situation. In the process of creating an isolation on the streetlighting circuit, the crew had commenced to cut away streetlighting bonds when a flicker of a streetlight within the previously de-energised area was observed.

Works were immediately paused, as the streetlighting circuit had previously been de-energised via the removal of circuit fuses and proven using correct testing procedures.

Causes / Contributing Factors

Further testing determined irregular voltages on the streetlighting circuit resulting in the streetlights flickering.

The initial investigation has identified a cross connection between the streetlight circuit neutral and the LV distributor mains (active) both inside and outside of the de-energised area creating a back feed.

Extent of impact

There were no injuries. Lineworkers were wearing appropriate PPE and following 'Live Work' procedures as an access authority/permit was yet to be issued.

Please ensure this is communicated to your employees and sub-contractors who may be involved in this type of work.

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