

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance & Practices



Alert Number: SA01_18

Subject: Unauthorised access to Ausgrid Zone Substation

Date: 2 January 2018

A recent incident has highlighted the need for Ausgrid to remind ASP1s of their obligations regarding the prevention of unauthorised access to construction sites that form part of contestable projects that include/encompass Ausgrid network equipment and assets. This includes open excavations and entry to Ausgrid substations. Ausgrid recognises that many acceptable controls are already being utilised however, ASP1s must ensure all sites comply with WHS Regulation 2011.

Background

The *WHS Regulation 2011 – cl 298* outlines the requirements of a person with management or control of a site to ensure the site is secured from unauthorised access. In complying with this, the risks to health and safety arising from unauthorised access to the workplace must be addressed.

In line with the above requirements, Ausgrid reminds ASPs the need to identify and manage the risks associated with open excavations and entry requirements to live Ausgrid substations and equipment.

Live substation access

A recent incident has highlighted the need to remind all ASP1s that they are not allowed to access Live Ausgrid substations and equipment without being correctly authorised and accompanied by an Ausgrid stand-by person.

Ausgrid's Electrical Safety Rules states the following when requiring access to Live Substations (ESR clause 3.1.1).

Persons must not gain access to or enter areas where there are live exposed conductors unless they are;

- 1. Authorised persons with appropriate current endorsements for Electrical Safety Rules and Substation entry in their network/skills passport (or on their authorisation card) and they have their authorisation with them, or*
- 2. Accompanied by an Ausgrid stand-by person who meets the requirements of items 1 and who has specially and clearly instructed the person about the following:*
 - The limits of the area they can access or enter*
 - Electrical dangers and any other possible dangers*
 - Required precautions*

This includes substations, switching stations, distribution centres (including kiosks) and any other areas where live exposed conductors are present.



Footway excavations

Where works have a significant/major impact on a footway such as total footpath closure or plant operating on the footpath, suitable means to prevent the unauthorised access during construction for the protection of pedestrians and the general public must be considered. This could include:

- Ensuring sufficient signs are established to guide pedestrians around or through the worksite. Temporary footpaths should be adequately signposted to indicate the direction of the footway. Where it is necessary to guide pedestrians onto the roadway to bypass the work area, the appropriate controls must be implemented.
- Suitable containment fencing used along the traffic side of any unattended excavation and erected in accordance with WHS requirements.
- Flashing yellow lamps at either end of the excavation. If there are driveways along the work area, they should be marked with suitable reflectors or bollards.
- Road plates or similar may need to be considered.

Footways must not remain obstructed at night unless sufficient width can be provided for pedestrians to move past the obstruction. The borders of the path must provide adequate containment and delineation. An example of this would be using plastic mesh fencing with retro-reflective devices at regular intervals i.e. bollards.



If you have any questions please contact the Ausgrid Project Officers.

Project Officers

Ausgrid