

Dangerous Occurrence

August 2016

Health and Safety Alert

What Happened?

A Street Lighting Operative working on our Essex Highways contract sustained minor injuries that required hospital treatment when the main power cable going into the street lighting column (the Distribution Network Operator's cable) created an electrical arc flash which engulfed the operative in hot fumes and debris.

A tool kit investigation is underway on the incident, but following the initial investigation it is believed that the outer sleeving of the live conductor had shrunk on the Protected Multiple Earth cable, causing it to arc between the live cable and the earth / neutral.



Things to Remember

- Always wear the correct PPE for the task you are undertaking
- Ensure you are appropriately trained, including working in the vicinity of Distribution Network Operator's (DNO) / Independent Distribution Network Operator's (IDNO) equipment
- Your competence has been assessed on site in accordance with H.E.R.S.
- You visually inspect the items before work starts, as part of your standard process
- Report any defects to your Supervisor/Line Manager. If insulation shrinkage is found, stop work and report the shrinkage to your Supervisor/Line Manager who will report this to the DNO/IDNO
- Follow your method statements and risk assessments
- If you are unsure, stop works and report your concerns to your Supervisor/Line Manager

