

Equipment not isolated in sub-station

What happened?

During the ETE/ETM works on Sunday 25/09/16 to move the section gap in the conductor rail at Bracknell, an installer discovered that the bus bar in the sub-station he was about to work on was still live when he carried out his 'test before you touch' test.

Although a rack out had been completed of the breakers in the sub-station, the outage for the rectifier had not been taken.

Impact:

- A fatality could have resulted had the installer came into contact with the live electrical equipment.
- In this event no injuries were sustained because the installer followed the Network Rail life-saving rules.

Actions:

- ETE/ETM works requiring isolation were stood down on site until the outage on the rectifier was taken.
- A telephone conference call was arranged between NR/Osborne/Supply Chain to determine if the works could safely continue on site.
- Communications and arrangements to be reviewed for future works requiring rack outs/rectifier outages.

Areas for further investigation:

Whilst this investigation is still in the early stages, some areas for further investigation are:

- Planning process for rack out/rectifier outages.
- Competence of Level A/D staff and familiarity with equipment being worked on.
- Adequacy of documentation to ensure planned works are completed as expected.



STOP Think – Have a conversation!
Make the right choice the SAFE choice.