

Safety Bulletin



Fatal accident in Europe

A UK based DNO has recently reported a fatal accident which occurred at a distribution sub-station in mainland Europe on 1st June 2016. The accident is currently subject to investigation, but the following outline details are known.

Work was planned for a principal contractor to change connections on the 20kV conductors, and then for repairs to be made to the external roof and internal ceiling and walls of the sub-station. Isolation of the high voltage apparatus was required before the work could commence.

It appears the civil contractor began assembling scaffolding in advance of the shutdown whilst the apparatus was still live. During the course of this he received an electric shock and fell, sustaining a head injury.

First aid was administered and the emergency services attended, however, sadly the operative did not survive the accident.



Recommendations and Action Points

The tragedy serves to remind us of the hazards faced in our working environments.

Putting into practice the behaviours that will help keep each other, contractors, customers and the general public safe, include following of processes, rules and procedures; only undertaking work we are competent to do; looking out for each other and working as a team; and thinking before acting to assess and control the risks.

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