

Reportable Injury – M54 Electrical Burns

Description:

An incident occurred on the 22nd August where an electrician, working on the M54 lighting upgrade, sustained electrical burns to his hands whilst installing components into an electrical distribution board (feeder pillar).



Investigation / findings:

- The injured person failed to isolate the electrical supply and make the system dead.
- The injured person assumed the system was isolated from the previous night.
- The fuse carrier came into contact with a live component which caused a flash over whilst working on the feeder pillar.
- The protection cover on the panel has a warning label stating "isolate supply before removing this cover".
- None of the 3 isolation points for the feeder pillar, mains switch, rotary isolator and supply fuse were used to isolate the electrical supply.
- The site specific risks and controls and the permit to work instructions were not followed.

Actions:

- Never assume electrical systems are dead prior to working on them. Anyone working on electrical systems must ensure they have been isolated and are safe to work on.
- Operatives must follow their company's safe working procedures for working on electrical systems.
- Operatives must test the electrical system to make sure it is dead.
- Lockout devices must be in place and visible before working on electrical systems.
- All live work must be controlled by a permit to work process.
- Brief electricians and operatives on this safety alert.

Further Information:

For further information contact the National Health & Safety team on NH&ST@highwaysengland.co.uk