Frontline UPDATES

INC-2025-187

SAFETY ALERT

TES25-235 v1.1

Lessons Learned - A TES AP slipped on ballast, and an insulated pole with an earth clamp attached, contacted the live OLE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

On 13/03/2025, a TES2000 isolations team was tasked with implementing a return conductor (RC) isolation at Fairfield Road on both the Up and Down Electric lines.

A TES2000 Appointed Person (AP), correctly following the earthing procedure, attached the clamp end of a long blue earth onto the earthing point of the OLE structure.

He then fixed 5 insulated poles together and began raising the pole to attach the other end of the long blue earth to the return conductor (RC).

While raising the pole the AP slipped on the ballast and momentarily lost his footing. As a result, the pole fell in the direction of the nearest cess.

Due to the combined weight of the pole and the attached earth the AP was unable to maintain control of the pole.

Consequently, the pole made contact with the feeder cable from switch 309A/508H at structure 02/32, causing the OHLE on the Up Electric section 309 to trip.

After ensuring the safety of all team members the Nominated Person (NP) contacted the Electrical Control Officer (ECO) to check if a trip had been registered on the Up Electric line. The ECO confirmed that a trip had occurred and re-energised section 309.

UNDERLYING CAUSE

The ballast underfoot was uneven and prone to movement.

LESSONS LEARNED

Always check that your footing is secure and you are sufficiently balanced before attempting to raise an insulated pole. Where possible, try to stand in a location where the ballast / surface is level.

SAFETY FIRST - EVERYONE HOME SAFE

Safety, Health, Environment, Quality (SHEQ)
Email: SHEQ@TES2000.co.uk
Out of hours SHEQ advice: 07935 500 054

TES Safety App