

VESI Work Practices Committee Memorandum

To:	All Victorian Distribution Lineworkers
CC:	Energy Safe Victoria (ESV)
From:	VESI Work Practices Chairman
Date:	October 2014
Subject:	Use of LV Insulated Cover Up When Working Live

Introduction:

Over the past 12 months there have been a number of work practice related incidents reviewed by the VESI Work Practices Committee where the work practice used was not at the desired standard, some of these involved;

- Loss of control of a Lug-All and it swinging down striking a hard cover exposing a conductor resulting in a phase to phase contact through body of Lug-All
- Whilst replacing a helical termination on a white phase conductor, contact was made with the blue phase conductor through the helical termination tail
- While removing a clamp off a white phase conductor with a hydraulic drill, contact made with the blue phase conductor when the drill was moved up dislodging a insulated mat

The following areas through the investigation process were identified as causal factors associated with the incident;

- Insufficient insulated cover up used
- Insulated cover up moving on the conductor
- An object striking and dislodging the insulated cover up
- Phase to phase or phase to neutral contact
- Safety Observers, identifying and communicating unsafe situations

Required Standard Practices.

VESI Field Workers are reminded of the requirement of applying appropriate levels of Low Voltage (LV) cover up when using live work practices. Insulated cover shall be applied to all exposed apparatus and conductive structures within reach or close proximity to the body. Conductive structures can include items such as, stays, conductive poles, public lighting brackets or telecommunication cables.

Insulated covers should also applied to subsidiary circuits such as tee-off conductor's when work involves working above the circuit to protect from inadvertent drop or release of conductors or equipment.

All insulated matting shall be secured and where High Voltage (HV) hard covers are being used as cover up on LV conductors they shall be secured in place by approved methods e.g. Pegs / Zip ties.

The securing of the insulated cover can prevent the cover from moving on conductors from inadvertent contact, conductor movement or conductor sway / sag.

The Safety Observer shall monitor and warn the crew upon any unsafe situation occurring such as the inadequacy of insulated cover up or where a cover may become dislodged.

Further Information

For further information on the above please consult with the relative Distribution Network Operators Work Practices group.

Regards

VESI Works Practice Committee