

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 28-15	Document Reference: AMG/F/HSQE/001
	Electrical Burns while wearing wrist Watch	Issue Date: 27/03/15	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Background:

Whilst changing defective diodes within a rectifier cubicle at High Brooms Substation, a member of staff suffered minor burns to his wrist and lower arm.

Although wearing gloves, the staff member's metallic wrist watch strap was exposed and made contact with the negative Busbar and the earthed equipment housing.

Although low, the residual voltage on the Busbar was sufficient to drive a high current through the watch strap causing the injury.



Discussion Points

Whilst we are investigating the causes of this incident please discuss the following with your teams:

- • What are the risks you face when working on electrical equipment?
- • How do watches and jewellery increase the risks?
- • Why was voltage present on the negative bus bar?
- What changes to our policies and ways of working might help us all to reduce the risk?
- What can you do to cover non-removable jewellery?
- What else can we personally do to reduce these risks?