

## UK HSE: electrician seriously injured on onshore wind farm

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The UK HSE has fined a wind farm management company after a worker was seriously injured. [See press release](#).

### What happened?

A worker was sent to carry out maintenance work in an electrical substation at an onshore wind farm. There was an electrical flashover, and the worker suffered injuries resulting in life-changing injuries that required multiple surgeries.

### What went wrong?

Investigation found that:

- The incident happened following a departure from the prepared switching programme. This meant work was allowed to be carried out on one of the two electrical cabinets while the other remained live, allowing part of the electrical system to be energised during the maintenance work.
- If the initial switching programme prepared by the operating company been correctly followed, the incident would not have occurred.
- The company did not have a suitable system or process in place to:
  - Check or review switching programmes to ensure that the procedures were correctly observed at all times, or,
  - Approve any changes to the initial switching programmes.

### What are the lessons?

- Ensure there is a safe system of work at all times.
- Manage change appropriately through the Management of Change (MoC) process.
- Manage simultaneous operations and complex parallel tasks carefully.
- Are there rigorous processes in place for checking and reviewing electrical work?
- Is there appropriate and sufficient supervision?

#### IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Work authorisation



Energy isolation

### Members may wish to refer to:

- HSE guidance on electrical safety [Electrical safety - HSE](#)

- [IMCA HSS 001 Guidelines for management of change](#)
- [IMCAM 203 Simultaneous operations \(SimOps\)](#)

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