

Investigation information release

Date: July 2025

Electrician injured from an arcing flash

Incident date: 7 June 2025

Event: Electrician suffers burns from an arcing flash

Location: Appin Mine North (Westcliff colliery), Appin, NSW.

The mine

Appin Mine North – Endeavour Coal Pty Ltd is 6 kilometres from Appin township NSW. This surface infrastructure is part of the greater Appin underground.

The incident

Two electrical tradespersons had completed an internal inspection on a workshop 415V distribution board (DSBW202) at 1.15 pm on 7 June 2025. They were at the isolation point, trying to close the circuit breaker (ACB1) in distribution board (DSBW201).

The circuit breaker would not close, so the workers began fault-finding tasks.

While investigating the function of closing the circuit breaker ACB2, which is adjacent to ACB1, the circuit breaker racking handle was used as a levering tool. During the process, the racking handle inadvertently made contact with a live phase and the enclosure frame (i.e. earthed) causing a phase-to-earth fault and a subsequent arc blast. As a result, one of the workers suffered arc flash burns to his left hand.

The investigation

An investigation is underway into the causes and circumstances of the incident. The investigation will examine the effectiveness of controls to eliminate or minimise the risk to health and safety from this task of electrical fault finding, including but not limited to the:

- adequacy of control plans and procedures
- adequacy of training and supervision
- adequacy of risk management tools and procedures
- duties of persons conducting business undertakings (PCBUs)
- adequacy of plant, equipment and ancillary devices involved in the incident.

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Figure 1: The distribution board involved in the incident



Further information

Please refer to the following guidance materials:

- [Position paper – Electrical work on, or in, proximity to energised electrical equipment](#)
- [Safety Bulletin SB25-04 Electric shocks in the mining industry](#)
- AS/NZS 4836: 2023 Safe working on or near low voltage and extra low voltage electrical installation and equipment.
- AS/NZS 3000: Wiring rules

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About this information release

The Regulator has issued this information to draw attention to the occurrence of a serious incident in the mining industry. Further information may be published as it becomes available.

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