

## Safety Update

### **Disconnect Fuse Base/Air Break Gang switch Ceramic Insulator Safety Risk**

Ceramic Insulators that are fitted to HV switches are a known point of failure and we are reminding our members that there needs to be extreme caution used when assessing the condition of high voltage switches in preparation for use.

These switches are commonly called up in switching programs and it is the responsibility of the worker on site to verify the switches condition and make the decision whether the switch is fit for use. To aid this UMPL have formulated a “Defect Checklist” to be performed by the workers on site prior to the operation of the switch. Our advice is ask Network Control if there are any available maintenance records for the switch in question and to exercise extreme caution in your physical assessment of these switches (*both 11kv and 33kv*) and if there is any question on the serviceability or condition of the device, do not operate it. The safety bulletin for these ceramic based switches can be found [here](#).

Maintenance records should be available for these switches, if not, please refer to the manufacturer’s specifications and if the service/maintenance schedule that is prescribed by the manufacturer has not been adhered to, tag the switch out and notify the Network Operations Centre and your leader so that no other worker can be put at risk by operating the switch until the issue is rectified.

### **Air Quality in Keswick**

We have been approached by our members in Keswick in relation to perceived poor air quality. The air condition system is recirculating air and there are concerns that the air quality has been declining. Since the COVID pandemic has started air quality has been brought to the forefront as a health and safety issue, and poor air quality and recirculation of air can contribute to elevated infection levels of COVID. The ASU has contacted UMPL over this issue and has proposed a number of solutions to improve workplace safety and are currently awaiting a response.

### **Health and Safety Representatives**

HSR’s perform an important role in every workplace. Every workplace should have one. Safety is the responsibility of every worker, leader and employer. It’s in everybody’s best interest to minimise workplace risk and hazards.

If your department does not have a HSR, you can elect one and the company needs to ensure that the elected HSR is properly trained. The elected HSR gets to choose where they are strained.

Workers need to take the role of their Health and Safety Rep seriously and this is why who they chose to represent them in safety is an important choice. With the escalated risk we are seeing on work sites, especially in relation to poorly maintained infrastructure, HSR’s have an ever-increasing role to play to keep workers safe.

Training can be accessed at SA Unions via this [link](#).

This is the training recommended by your Union (all SBU Unions).

### **SAME WORK, LESS PAY, WE SAY, NO WAY**

For more information regarding the SAPN/Enerven enterprise agreement negotiations, contact your relevant union workplace delegate or your Union Organiser:

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**PLEASE SHARE THIS UPDATE WITH YOUR WORKMATES**

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