Safety Flash

Hydro in Pedestal

What Happened:

A technician was working on the old green type pedestals. When he opened one of them up he recognized there were HYDRO cables in the pedestal. He tried to close the lid, however the protective plastic shield inside the pedestal was broken causing the hydro wires (240V) to short out, causing an arc and sparks knocking the technician back with a pretty good jolt.

The technician was not injured but was sent to the hospital for evaluation for a precautionary measure.





The HYDRO pedestals should be locked and tagged as shown in the picture to the far right. This particular pedestal was not locked, nor did it have a sticker on it..

Things to consider:

Electricity always seeks the path of least resistance to flow through a conductor to ground. The human body is a fairly good conductor. When a person becomes a conductor by touching an external electrical source and a ground at the same time, electricity will flow through the body and can cause discomfort, pain, tissue damage or even death. As low as 100 mA (milliamp) of electricity can be fatal under the right conditions.

- Before touching any pedestal or terminal, always use a voltage tester and insulated rubber gloves and suspect that hydro may be present. In this particular case the voltage tester may not have indicated a hazard but the gloves would have diminished any possibility of an injury.

For more information on the use of these personal protective equipment products, refer to APP modules:

105 – Insulating gloves http://app.int.bell.ca/Public/FileView.aspx?ID=119
211 – Voltage tester http://app.int.bell.ca/Public/FileView.aspx?ID=1051

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