

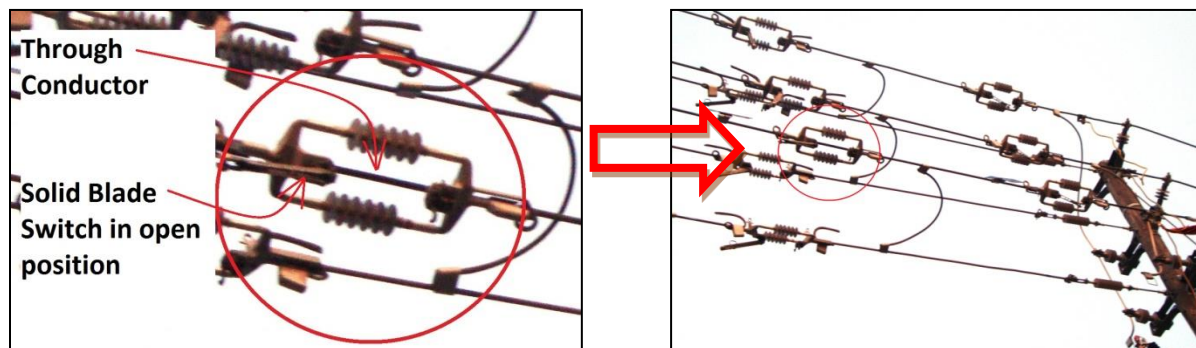
In-Line Solid Blade Switch Safety

Distribution Company Awareness

An LDC worker was seriously injured during a planned outage. Work scope included reframing of poles, replacing insulators, replacing a damaged pole supporting a bank of transformers and replacing a primary fuse assembly supplying a transformer vault. The crew isolated 3 in-line solid blade switches and de-energized the primary circuit by placing grounds on the load side of these switches.

Prior to replacing the fuse assembly, one member of the crew opened 6 other in-line solid blade switches to expand the safe work zone unaware that the lower phase conductor was still energized even though the switch was in the open position.

Normally, there are causal factors involved for any incident to occur. One of the causal factors in this incident was a mistake at the time of the original installation. The conductor between the in-line solid blade switch was not cut, therefore the energy bypassed the open point of the switch.



Safety Awareness

Crews should examine any existing installation for any errors such as the conductor running through the in-line solid blade switch allowing the flow of energy to bypass the switch blade when in the open position.

ESA Recommends

Prior to operating of the in-line solid blade switch, crews should inspect the switch to ensure the conductor has been cut.