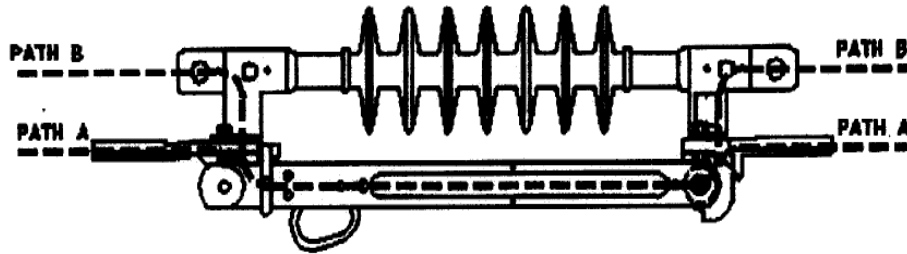


In-Line Disconnect Switches

Distribution Company Awareness

This bulletin addresses issues with a type of In-Line Disconnect Switch that can cause safety concerns.



Introduction

The switch type shown above has 2 current paths. “Path A” indicates the desired current path, through a wedge connector, to the terminal pad, and through the switch blade. If “Path A” develops a high resistance, more current will be forced through the undesired path indicated by “Path B”. The current along “Path B” can cause heating issues, leading to end fitting separation.



ESA Recommends

When working on or inspecting this equipment ESA recommends the following:

- Crews are made aware of this issue and inspect for any visible signs of cracking before operating the switch;
- Proper connections are made, including proper cleaning and abrading of the conductor and the use of oxide inhibitor;
- Engineering investigate the use of dead-end insulators to increase the impedance of current through “Path B”; and
- Infrared testers are aware these switches may have elevated heating at the compression connectors.