

FOREWORD

Whilst all the plant and apparatus covered by this Safety Instruction does not fall strictly within the defined term **System** in the ScottishPower Safety Rules, the duties imposed by statutory legislation necessitated the inclusion in previous ScottishPower Safety Rules of certain requirements when doing work on such plant and apparatus where **Danger** may arise.

1. SCOPE

This Safety Instruction applies the principles established by the ScottishPower Safety Rules (Electrical and Mechanical) to achieve **Safety from the System** for personnel working in, or entering, areas protected by fixed fire protection equipment.

Firefighting procedures are outside the scope of this document.

2. ISSUE RECORD

This is a [Reference](#) document. The current version is held on the EN Document Library.

It is your responsibility to ensure you work to the current version.

Issue Date	Issue No.	Author	Amendment Details
October 1998	1		Initial Issue.
September 2015	2	Phil Currie	Section 11: requirement for selector to be Locked in 'Manual'. Reference added to ongoing work under a Safety Document . Section 12: removal of reference to breathing apparatus.

3. ISSUE AUTHORITY

Author	Owner	Issue Authority
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4. REVIEW

This is a [Reference](#) document which has a 5 year retention period after which a reminder will be issued to review and extend retention or archive.

5. DISTRIBUTION

This Energy Networks' Safety Instruction is maintained by EN Document Control and is part of the ScottishPower Safety Rules which is published to the SP Energy Networks Internet site.

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7. DEFINITIONS

Terms printed in bold type are as defined in the ScottishPower Safety Rules (Electrical and Mechanical).

8. PLANT AND APPARATUS IDENTIFICATION

Plant and **Apparatus** on which work or testing is to be carried out shall be readily identifiable or have fixed to it a means of identification which will remain effective throughout the course of the work or testing.

9. DANGERS

The main **Dangers** to personnel from operation of fixed fire protection equipment are:

- (i) Asphyxiation by the gases or chemical extinguishants used;
- (ii) Poisoning due to toxicity of extinguishants;
- (iii) Falling or striking against objects due to poor visibility after the release of gases or chemical extinguishants;
- (iv) Low temperature.

10. EQUIPMENT INCORPORATING WATER AS AN EXTINGUISHANT

10.1 Water Sprinkler System

Water used as an extinguishing agent from a sprinkler system does not, in itself, cause **Danger**. Such a system may generally be left in service when **Persons** enter, work, or test in an area or space protected by a sprinkler system. The only occasion when such firefighting protection equipment shall be **Isolated** is when the work or testing being done in the area or space, such as **Live** working, could cause additional **Danger** due to the **Live** parts and the safe methods of work used being affected by impure water.

10.2 Emulsifier System

Before work or testing commences in an area or space protected by water emulsifier fire protection equipment which if it operates could cause **Danger**, then that fire protection equipment shall be **Isolated**.

11. EQUIPMENT INCORPORATING GAS OR CHEMICAL EXTINGUISHANTS

11.1 The following precautions shall be taken if **Persons** are to enter, work or test in areas in which the operation of automatic fire protection equipment, using gas or chemical extinguishants, could cause **Danger**:

- (i) Whether or not the area is fitted with mechanical access interlocks, the automatic control of the fire protection equipment shall be rendered inoperative and the control placed on 'Manual'. These actions shall be recorded in the substation Log Book where provided at the **Location**;
- (ii) A notice requiring the actions in (i) above shall be displayed at all points of access to the area;
- (iii) **Caution Notice(s)** indicating that the control is on 'Manual' shall be fixed to the automatic/manual selector. The method of switching the automatic control to 'Manual' shall, where reasonably practicable, be **Locked**;

- (iv) Precautions taken to render the automatic control inoperative shall be noted on any **Safety Document** issued for work or testing in the protected area.
- 11.2 Subject to the precautions stated on a **Safety Document**, the automatic control of the fire protection equipment shall be restored immediately after all **Persons** have withdrawn from the area and all access doors have been or are about to be **Locked**.
- 12. ACCESS TO AREAS FOLLOWING OPERATION OF FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT**
- 12.1 Before permitting persons to enter areas into which gas or chemical extinguishants have been discharged, the areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and the atmosphere verified as safe by a **Selected Person**.