

Shell EPA Wells HSE Early Learning Bulletin

Fountain No: 139211

Location: SMEP

Date: 20 Aug 2007

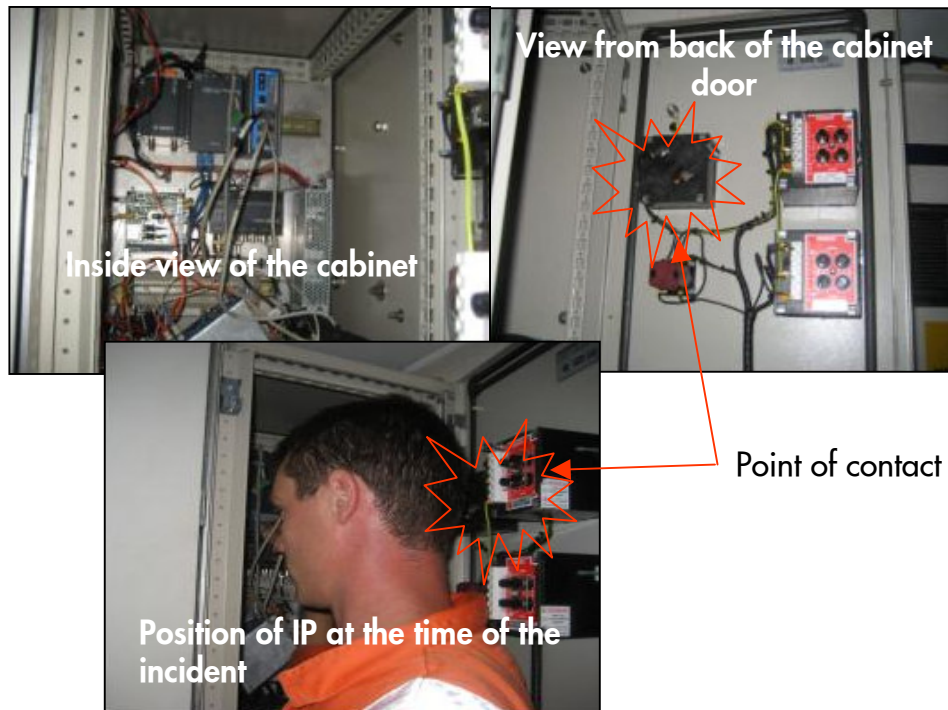
Risk Ranking: Actual – 1 Potential – 4B

PERSON RECEIVED ELECTRIC SHOCK / BURNS — Two service Engineers were troubleshooting communication problems between their electric power distribution container and office container. The IP was working in the electric power distribution container (inside a cabinet measuring about 6' high, 1' wide & approx. 1.5' deep), manipulating / switching the fibre optic cables. His colleague was verifying response in the office container.

The door of the cabinet could only be opened approx. 75 degrees due to space constraints, causing very limited access to the interior of the cabinet. The inside of the cabinet door contains the 220 V and 440V electrical circuits / breakers. These were not shielded off.

As the IP was working on the fibre optic cables (which are positioned relatively high up inside the cabinet), he was holding on with his left hand to a connector, while with his right hand he was changing out / shifting fibre optic cables. The IP had taken off his helmet due to limited work space (narrow cabinet and limited access). While in this position, the back of his head came in contact with the exposed live terminal of the voltage meter located inside of the cabinet door. As a result, he got an electric shock.

He subsequently fell backwards on the floor where he momentarily lost consciousness. It was then that his colleague found him, and checked him for response. At this time the IP regained consciousness. He was later reviewed by the Rig Medic and subsequent Medevac to shore for further examination & observation. IP sustained minor burnt on the left arm below the elbow, on his abdomen near the umbilical and a minor wound on the right side of the head.



Learning Points

- Suboptimal design of electrical cabinet:
 - Mix of instrumentation and high voltage equipment
 - No protection cover over live contact points
- Equipment was not commissioned and tested prior to load out offshore
- Lack of controls to manage this complex project



A detailed investigation has been undertaken and will be completed shortly. Shell EPA.