

Apprentice electrician receives serious injuries

Another serious incident involving an apprentice electrician occurred last week.

A third-year electrical apprentice received serious injuries while working on a live switchboard.

The apprentice was replacing a single phase circuit breaker with a new Residual Current Circuit Breaker with Over Current Protection (RCBO) to a live distribution switchboard.

The switchboard involved in the incident was a 250amp 48 pole switchboard, comprising a main isolator and a center fed bus chassis, a combination of single and multi-phase circuit breakers fitted to it.

This electrical installation work was being performed at a large commercial site undergoing refurbishment.

The apprentice was working live.

When the apprentice attempted to replace the single phase circuit breaker with a new RCBO he initiated an arcing fault resulting in an electrical explosion. He received burns and was admitted to hospital in a serious condition. He is now home, recovering from his injuries.

Energy Safe Victoria, WorkSafe and Victoria Police are undertaking investigations into this incident.

STAY ALIVE NEVER WORK LIVE

**Never work live on switchboards or electrical installations.
Always disconnect the electricity supply before starting
work.**

LOTO

LOCK OUT TAG OUT

**Apprentices must be effectively and appropriately
supervised.**

For more information, read our [Stay alive never work live](#) brochure, available on our website www.esv.vic.gov.au