

# Contractor Fatality

## Electrocution



**Activity:** A 37 year old contractor was electrocuted while working on an electrical transformer. Working alone to remove emergency generator cables (pig tails) from the low voltage (right) side of the transformer, the employee removed a bolted panel controlling access to the high voltage side in order to access an area on the low voltage side required to complete the cable disconnect task. The low voltage fuses were previously removed from the primary side rendering the low voltage circuits de-energized, but the high voltage side was energized and should have been considered as such. The initial point of contact with 4160 V power is uncertain, but signs of arc flash were found inside the cabinet and while proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for low voltage work was worn, it was insufficient protection from energized high voltage circuit parts, and exit wounds were found on his shoulder, shins and fingers.

### **Possible Contributing Factors**

- Inadequate hazard consequence recognition and mitigation
- Insufficient/incomplete work planning and implementation of steps necessary to perform entire evolution in safest possible manner

### **Communication Points**

- Entire electrical work evolutions must be fully planned and incorporate the fundamentals of Operational Risk Management (ORM) – identify and assess hazards, implement controls, and validate controls are effective; stopping and revising if controls are inadequate to mitigate encountered conditions
- Consider all circuit parts energized, and maintain safe separation until verified de-energized, or establish controls to work on/near energized circuit parts

