Safety

Can it be Regulated???

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Introduction

• South Africa is one of the most regulated countries in terms of Safety.

• The OHS Act is a comprehensive collection of Laws and Regulations

• Controls How, What, When, Who and Where one implements safety
Introduction

• With regulations in place, far less accidents should occur.
• Why do accidents still occur?
• The usual reasoning stated is:
  "It should be remembered that our present work force is uneducated, ill trained and poorly skilled"
• Involved with a number of internal investigations.
• Conducted research into recent accidents.
Introduction

- In the electrical industry accidents are a major concern:
  - They usually lead to injury or death
  - Cause damage to equipment
  - Can cause loss of income to consumers and suppliers

- Some of the causes leading to the specific accidents are:
  - Incorrect switching
  - Barricading
  - Hot Line Tapping
Accident 1 (Incorrect switching)

• Two workers were performing switching.
• Normal switching procedures not followed
• Closed two breakers simultaneously
• One of the breakers failed
• Causing extensive damaged to the equipment
• Major injuries to one of the operator
Contributing Factors

- Short cut taken: to reduce the outage time to consumers
- High load being switched
- Ignoring the safety procedures

Personnel and the Act

- The staff involved in this incident were both well qualified (Engineer and a senior electrician)
- At least 20 years experience in the field
- Act Clause 14
- Regulations that apply GMR 3.1, 4.1 and 4.5
- Operating Regulations
Accident 2 (Barricading)

- Maintenance of a 66 kV switch yard.
- Area was correctly isolated and barricaded.
- Worker left the barricaded area.
- Returned and climbed over the barricading.
- Climbed a live structure and made contact.
- The supervising electrician was not aware as he was occupied with other work.
Contributing Factors

- Lack of proper supervision
- Disregard for the barricading
- Not following correct procedures

Personnel and the Act

- Labourer with many years experience (20 years)
- Electrician (over 10 years)
- Act clause 14. (a) (c)
- Regulations GMR 3.1
Accident 3 (Hot Line Tapping)

- Contractor Building line
- During hand over dampers found to be missing
- Contractor installed dampers
- Line had been energized using hot line tapping
Contributing Factors

- Contractor had not completed work
- Incorrect Energizing procedure took place
- Correct procedure not followed when installing dampers

Personnel and the Act

- All the Electricians involved with this incident were well qualified (over 15 years)
- Act clause 14. (a) (c) (d)
- Regulations GMR 3.1
- Network control regulations
Conclusion

“It should be remembered that our present work force is uneducated, ill trained and poorly skilled”

• Safety is:
  ➢ Time
  ➢ Work ethics
  ➢ Need to return to old time values (Knowledge, skill, attitude and pride)
  ➢ Safety cannot be regulated it has to be inherent to workers
  ➢ A way of life
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS

OR

COMMMENTS