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### Electrical Distribution Safety

#### GENERAL STATEMENT:

During a planned outage to relocate an LDC owned pole mounted transformer, an LDC power line worker received an 8,000V shock from the primary lead of the isolated transformer. ESA (under the new Product Safety regulatory regime) contacted the Certification Agency and the manufacturer to initiate the investigation. There were a couple of causal factors determined by the manufacturer which contributed to the failure of equipment. Under the new product safety regulation for “code side” equipment the manufacturer was required to provide this information to ESA along with an action plan to prevent future occurrences.

There was a connection path which back fed from the Power Supply through the utility meter, to the closed main switch, which was mounted on the pole. This in turn energized the secondary tap of the LDC transformer which stepped up the voltage from 140 to 8000 volts on the primary transformer bushing that the power line worker relocating. During standby mode these units should not exhibit any voltage on the plug end.

#### SAFETY AWARENESS:

Crews need to be aware of potential back feed from Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS). Crews should also be aware of any other means of back feeds such as portable generators.



#### ESA RECOMMENDS:

- LDC’s should create a procedure to verify any possible back feeds through the distribution lines from other sources of energy.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** If you can provide additional information on this Bulletin or any other Utility issue, please contact ESA to share your experiences. Additional information requests, and follow-up information, may be directed to ESA. Please be prepared to quote Bulletin “DSB-03/08”.