

Safety Alert

15 May 2026

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

Arc flash incident

Following a fire suppression system discharge, all associated switches were isolated to allow electricians to test each isolation individually.

During this time, a large rock became jammed in the jaw crusher, requiring the use of the rock breaker. As the Motor Control Centre (MCC) switches remained isolated, the rock breaker needed to be re-energised. During the attempt to restore power and restart the rock breaker, an arc flash event occurred.

The energy released could have resulted in serious, life-changing injuries, however, processes and procedures were followed, and there were no serious injuries.

[MinEx statistics](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the past 8 years show 5% of incidents (356 incidents) involved pressure release of which 125 resulted from release of electricity.



You need to ensure that:

1. Critical controls relied on for arc flash incidents are identified and managed.
2. Where practical, use energy reducing switches in MCCs to reduce the energy potential in switchboards.
3. When conducting electrical work, all workers wear arc-rated Personal Protective Equipment.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.