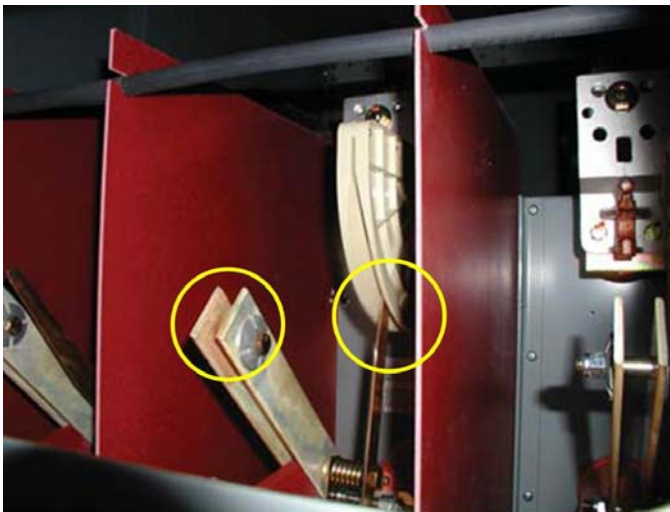


HIGH-VOLTAGE SWITCH MAINTENANCE

Failure to maintain high-voltage switches can kill you. Recent accident investigations and inspections revealed that an improperly maintained switch may result in arc interrupter blades that do not fully open from the arc chute and would still conduct current. Complying with the service requirements of the high-voltage disconnecting switches is essential for equipment operation and the safety of individuals counting on the equipment to properly disconnect the circuit from the system power. Facility managers, engineers, and electricians need to be aware of the potential hazards resulting from failure to maintain the electrical system.



Improperly maintained switch may result in arc interrupter blade not fully open from arc chute and may still conduct current with the handle in the open position.

Best Practices

- High voltage switch gear should only be operated by qualified electricians who have received thorough training on the disconnecting switch being used.
- Always wear suitable high voltage Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as electrical gloves, while operating such devices.
- Ensure that the main and arcing contacts have visually separated, and the circuit has been properly frame grounded before electrical work begins on the isolated electrical circuit.
- Follow the manufacturer's maintenance schedule program for each electrical device.
- Review and establish regularly scheduled maintenance procedures to ensure that the proper service has taken place.