

Significant Electricity Network Incidents

Definitions and reporting requirements



Significant Electricity Network Incidents (SENIs)

SENIs include:

- Reportable Safety Incidents (RSIs)
- Reportable Asset Incidents (RAIs)

1.1 Reportable Safety Incidents

A person is injured or there was a significant risk that a person could have been seriously injured due to electricity, electrical mains or apparatus. Examples include:

- amputation of any part of body
- serious head injury
- serious eye injury
- serious flash burn, electrical burns, electric shock
- separation of skin from an underlying tissue (such as degloving or scalping)
- spinal injury
- loss of a bodily function
- serious lacerations
- heart issues, including arrhythmia
- other (than those injuries listed above)
- nil (significant risk that a person could have been seriously injured – as a result of breaching the safe approach distance as per the NOs criteria.)

Note: For SENI reporting purposes, incidents involving a breach in safe approach distance to a network asset, the breach must be assessed in reference to:

- The approach distances as per the relevant WorkCover NSW Code of Practice or Guide.
- The classification of the person or worker e.g. general public, public worker, ASP, Network Operator worker or contractor.
- The safe approach distances of the Network Operator, where applicable.
- A workers Authorisation status relating to Network Operator activities, where applicable.

1.2 Major RSIs

Major RSIs involve significant injury to persons. Significant injury means death, life threatening injuries, or injuries to multiple people due to electricity, or network equipment and apparatus.

1.3 Timeframe for reporting RSIs

- RSIs –Quarterly written reports are to be provided two weeks prior to the meeting of the Industry Safety Steering Committee (ISSC) and a final report within three weeks of the end of the financial year.
- Major RSIs – Immediate verbal notification (at least by next working day) followed by written notification (in spreadsheet form) within ten working days

1.4 Spreadsheet content RSIs

Network Operator reference number; Network Operator (Ausgrid, Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy, TransGrid, Directlink, SydneyTrains); date of incident; type of incident (major incident, Reportable Safety Incident); severity of injury (fatality, life threatening injuries, admitted to hospital, treatment by a health care professional, injury with no treatment, incident where a person could have been seriously injured); injury details (fatality, amputation of any part of body, serious head injury, serious eye injury, serious flash burn, electrical burns or electric shock, separation of skin from an underlying tissue, spinal injury, loss of a bodily function, serious lacerations, heart issues, including arrhythmia, other, nil); party involved (employee, contractor, Accredited

Service Provider [ASP], public worker, public general); locality (free-text); electricity involved (electricity involved, electricity not involved; potential injury); object involved (aircraft, construction/demolition equipment, cotton industry machinery, crane, excavator, grain auger, harvester, high load, irrigation pipe, scaffolding, tractor or implement, tree, truck, water spray equipment, yacht mast; animal, other, N/A); details of incident (free-text); initial corrective action (free text).

1.5 Definitions RSIs

- Due to electricity - Electricity involved in the incident (e.g. a fall caused by receiving an electric shock), or was directly involved in the injury suffered (e.g. electrical burns, flash burns, or electric shock).
- Due to the network - Electricity was not involved in the incident and the safe approach distance was not breached (no electric shock / flash / burn) but the incident involved electrical mains or apparatus. (e.g. an electrical pole falling over).
- Person means any of the following:
 - Worker injury – Involves a network worker employee, contractor or ASP
 - Public injury – Involves a public worker or public general
 - Public worker – Worker other than network worker employee, contractor or ASP
 - Public general – Member of the public other than public worker
- Object Involved – Aircraft; construction/demolition equipment; cotton industry machinery; crane; excavator; grain auger; harvester; high load; irrigation pipe; scaffolding; tractor or implement; tree; truck; water spray equipment; yacht mast; animal; other; N/A (not involving an object).

1.6 RSI Exclusions

- Motor Vehicular collision with Network equipment and apparatus unless electricity is involved (this does not include items of plant or equipment involved in construction or demolition work). An example of this SENI exclusion is a motor vehicle collision (traffic accident) with a power pole and there were no fallen conductors.
- LV service lines torn from position, damaged or brought down by a truck / high load where there was no persons injured - Electricity not involved . An example of this exclusion would include LV covered conductors or services lines torn from a point of attachment and left on the ground after contact by a high load vehicle with No report of injury from live conductors on the ground.

Customer installation incidents are not covered by this reporting regime. For a full definition of reporting requirements relating to customer installation incidents, refer to Clause 10 of *Electricity Supply (Safety and Network Management) Regulation 2008*. The Office of Fair Trading also has its own requirements for reporting these incidents.

2.1 Reportable Asset Incidents

Involves loss of supply due to the failure of an asset, which results in a prolonged reliability event.

This means for:

- Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSPs), an outage greater than 0.1 system minutes.
- Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSP), for assets in the:
 - sub-transmission network, an outage that exceeds the design planning criteria (Schedule 1 of *Design Reliability and Performance Licence Conditions for Distribution Network Service Providers* (Licence Conditions)).
 - distribution network, an outage that results in a loss of supply to greater than 2500 customers for more than 4 hours.
 - distribution network, an outage that results in a loss of supply to greater than 250 customers for more than 24 hours.
- SydneyTrains, a system black start.

2.2 Major RAIs

- For TNSPs – an outage of more than 0.1 system minutes within 30 minutes.
- For DNSPs - an outage to the network that exceeds the design planning criteria (Schedule 1 Licence Conditions) and with an expected outage duration of greater than 8 hours.

2.3 Timeframe for reporting RAIs

- Quarterly written reports are to be provided two weeks prior to the meeting of the Industry Safety Steering Committee (ISSC) and a final report within three weeks of the end of the financial year.
- Major Incidents – Immediate notification (at least by next working day) followed by written notification (in spreadsheet format) within ten working days.

2.4 Spreadsheet content RAIs

Network Operator's incident number (free text); network operator involved (Ausgrid; Essential Energy; Endeavour Energy; TransGrid; APA Group; SydneyTrains); date of incident (free text); major incident (yes, no); maximum outage duration (hours, minutes); number customers affected (number); details of incident (free text description of cause and consequence); location (town/suburb/locality).

2.5 Definitions RAIs

- Maximum outage duration – the maximum interruption experienced by any customer affected by the incident.

2.6 Exclusions RAIs

Interruptions that meet criteria for exclusion as per Schedule 4 of the Licence Conditions.

3 Notification Details for SENIs

Following amendment of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* in June 2015, reports on Significant Electricity Network Incidents are to be sent to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) as the safety and reliability regulator for electricity networks.

All verbal advice to be provided to the contacts below:

Primary Contact

Steve McHardy
IPART
Tel: 02 9290 8429

Secondary Contact

Christine Allen
IPART
Tel: 02 9290 8412

Written notification shall be in the format of the supplied spreadsheet and be sent by email to:

energy@ipart.nsw.gov.au and steve_mchardy@ipart.nsw.gov.au

A supplementary report, if requested by IPART, shall be provided in accordance with the notified timeframe and content.

Confirmation by post (if requested) to:

IPART
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240