

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 104
Issued 16/03/2018

Use of Contact Cleaner

Incident

This alert has been issued following two recent incidents which occurred on 6/3/18, one at Singleton and the other at Mt Thorley. The incidents occurred when CRC Flammable Contact Cleaner was used to clean electrical contacts inside the points mechanism. The usual practice is to spray the contacts and leave the lid off the points mechanism to dry, approximately 15 minutes. On this occasion, due to rain and humidity, the points lids were replaced before the spray had time to dry. During testing of the points, the contact cleaner fumes inside the mechanism has ignited causing the lid of the mechanism to be blown off and damaged. This projectile had the potential to cause injury to any team members if they had been nearby.



Immediate actions

- Due to the risk of ignition and injury to team members undertaking this maintenance, contact cleaner is not to be used for points maintenance in the short term.

Further analysis of the task will be carried out by the HV signalling team to determine the most appropriate methods and products used to undertake points maintenance. This will be communicated once finalised which is expected by the end of April.

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- For further information please contact Brett Teasdale, Principal Advisor Safety Hunter Valley, 02 4978 9830 or bteasdale@artc.com.au