

NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

Safety – Improper Installation of Safety Grounds

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North American Transmission Forum (NATF) operating experience reports highlight positive or negative transmission (reliability or resiliency) experiences worth sharing for learning opportunities or potential trending. The overall goal is to help each other learn without experiencing the same issues first-hand. This sharing originates confidentially within the NATF membership.

Redacted operating experience reports are posted on the NATF public website to allow the NATF and its members to more broadly share information, especially safety-related alerts and learnings, with contractors and other utilities to benefit the industry at large.

The NATF member company that submitted the initial restricted distribution OE report for this topic/event has approved the NATF to issue this redacted OE report.

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Topic

Improper Installation of Safety Grounds

Description

While performing a routine 161 kV circuit breaker test, a crew observed loose safety grounds. The safety grounds were applied near the bend of the grounding stirrups (where the resting weight may cause the safety ground to go during attachment). One corner of the temporary ground clamp was tightened in the bend and not completely flat on the ground stirrup. After slight vibration, the clamp slid out of the bend and became loose.

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Lessons Learned

1. When using grounding stirrups, the temporary safety ground should be attached in the middle of the flat portion of the stirrup and away from any bends.

Actions Taken

- Shared this OE with transmission construction and maintenance personnel
- Shared this OE with NATF
- Issued a "Transmission Notice" to address the improper installation of existing grounding stirrups

Extent of Condition

This is applicable to all ground stirrup applications, including triangular and U-shaped.