

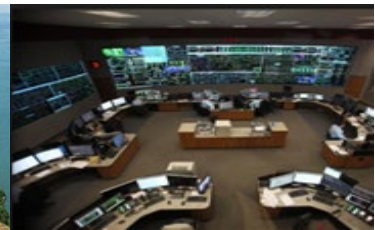
Human Performance Workshop

Why Are We Here?

Johnny Gest
Manager, Engineering & System Performance

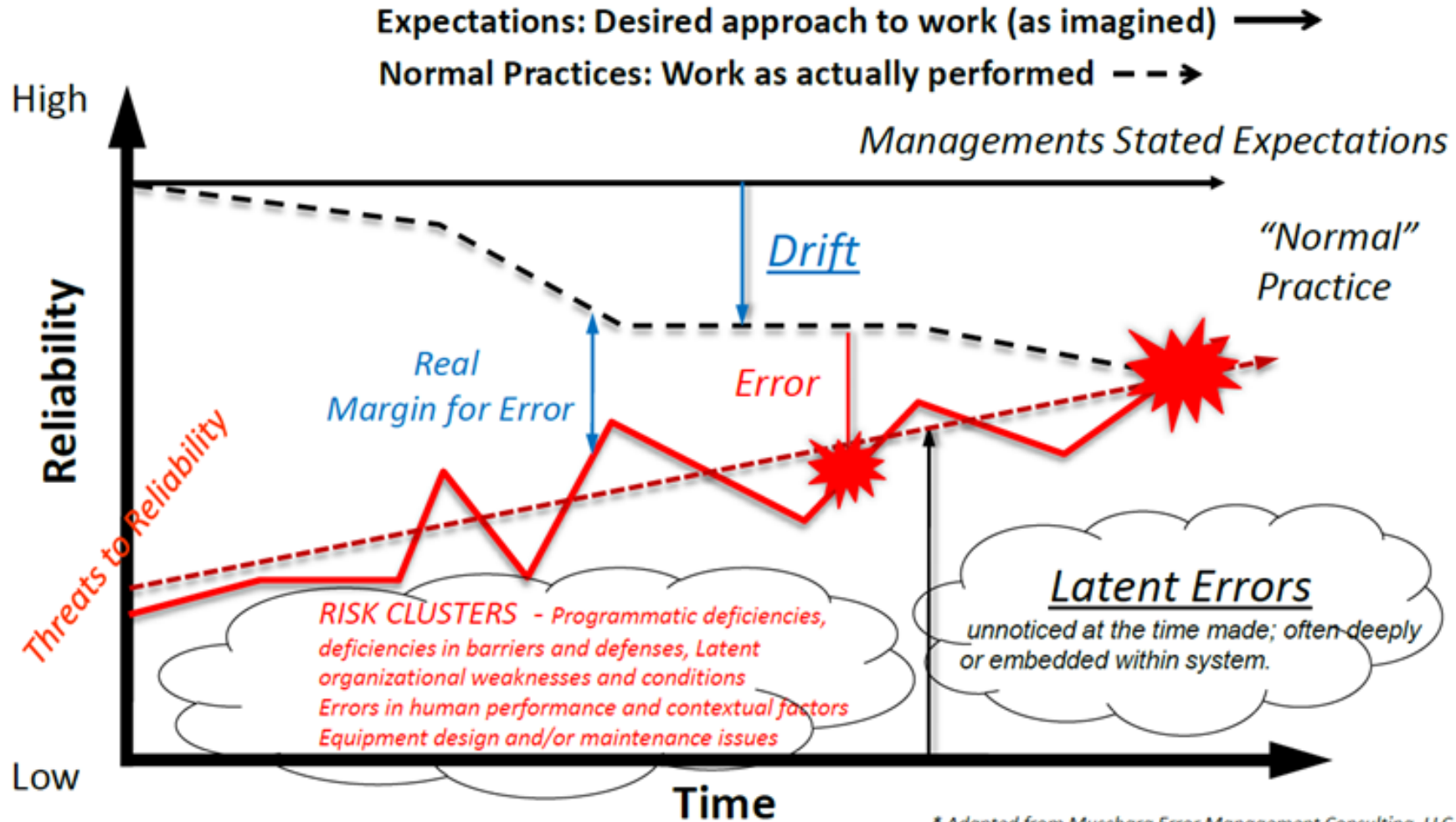
August 5, 2021

LIMITED DISCLOSURE



What is Human Performance?

Drifting to Failure Concept



* Adapted from Muschara Error Management Consulting, LLC



2016-2020 Outages per Circuit (100 kV+)

➤ Number of transmission outages from ac circuits and transformers caused by human error is decreasing/stable

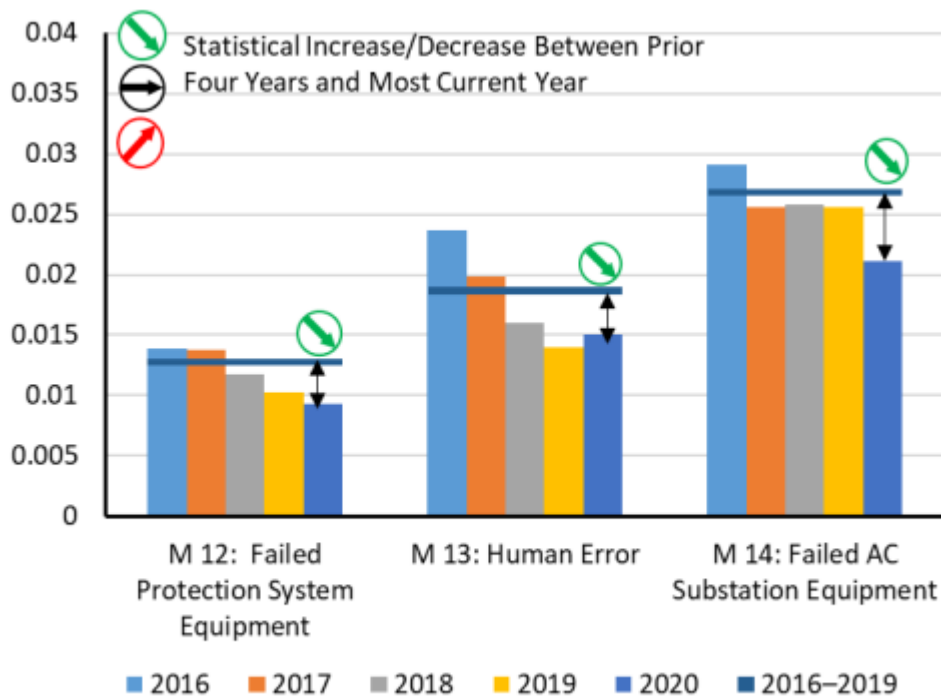


Figure 3.9: Number of Outages per AC Circuit due to Various Initiating Causes

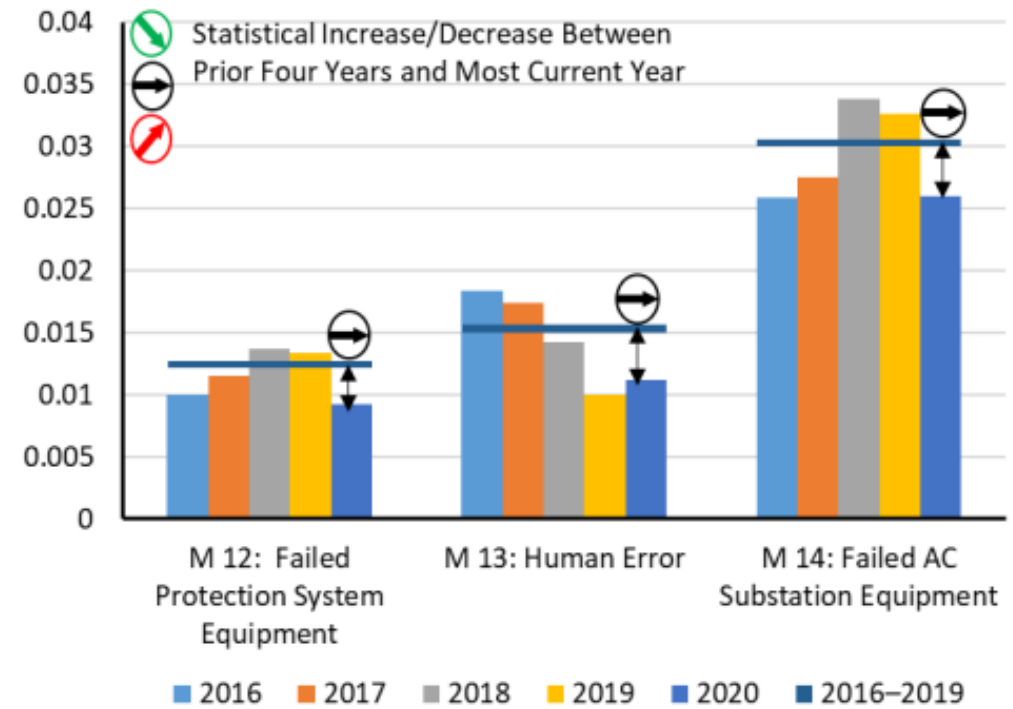
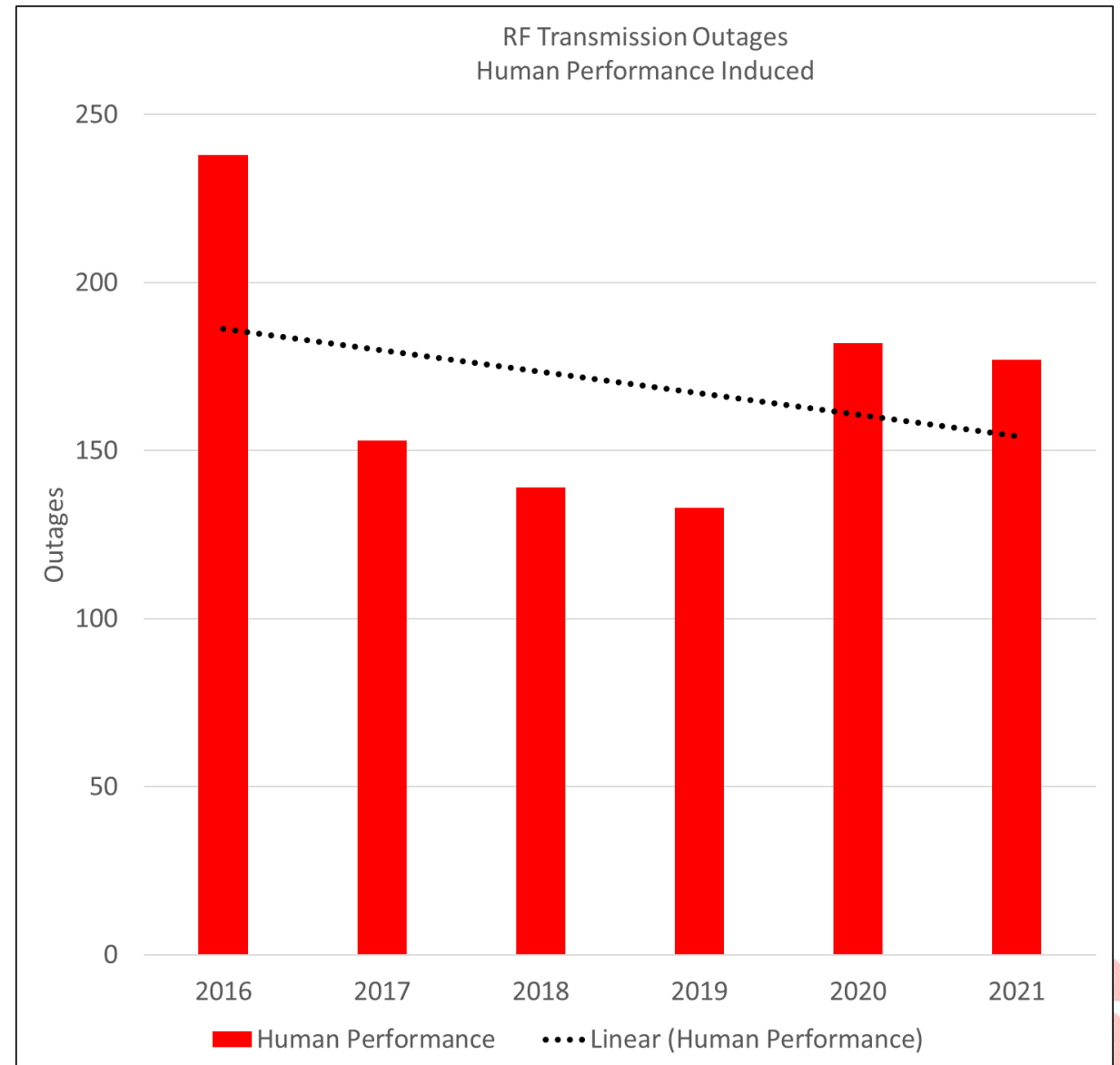


Figure 3.11: Number of Outages per Transformer Due to Various Initiating Causes



ReliabilityFirst HP Performance

- Number of outages from ac circuits and transformers caused by human error are **decreasing**
- This trend is also reflected in generation outages and misoperations
- Events caused by human error are minimal



Maximizing Human Performance

We must understand that people will be people!

Make it easy for employees to do the right thing.

Make it hard for employees to do the wrong thing.

**Make it so that when they do the wrong thing,
it doesn't lead to a catastrophe!**

**Make the system conform to the people,
not the other way around!**

Create an environment that allows feedback and adaptation!



RF Human Performance Community of Excellence

A Community of Excellence (CoE) is a group of people who share an interest or passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly with other colleagues in their field of expertise.

Intended Audience:

Human Performance Professionals from the ReliabilityFirst entities



RF Knowledge Center on Web Site

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL rfirst.org/KnowledgeCenter/Risk%20Analysis/HP/. The page features the ReliabilityFirst logo and navigation menu. The main content area is titled "HUMAN PERFORMANCE" and includes a paragraph explaining its importance in grid operation. A diagram titled "Factors That Affect Human Error" illustrates the PII Performance Pyramid, showing the relationship between Executive Management, Organizational and Programmatic Features, Individual Human Error, and Equipment Failure. A sidebar on the right lists various risk analysis topics and provides links to related resources.

HOME > KNOWLEDGE CENTER > RISK ANALYSIS > HUMAN PERFORMANCE

HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Human performance is a key component in the overall operation, management, and maintenance of the grid. Humans make decisions every day in response to events, activities and processes. While humans generally do not intentionally make errors, they can and do make errors that can cause problems on the grid.

It is important to understand the reasons that humans make the decisions they do, and why these decisions sometimes lead to errors. This knowledge center page includes lessons learned and best practices related to human performance and grid reliability.

Factors That Affect Human Error

The diagram is a pyramid with three levels. The top level is "Executive Management" with a "Management" box to its right. The middle level is "Organizational and Programmatic Features" with a "Supervision" box to its right. The bottom level is split into "Individual Human Error" and "Equipment Failure". Brackets on the left indicate that the top two levels are the "Majority of the root causes" and the bottom two levels are the "Majority of the symptoms". The pyramid is labeled "THE PII Performance Pyramid™" at the base.

RISK ANALYSIS

- COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS
- MISOPERATIONS
- CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION (CIP)
- ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)
- HUMAN PERFORMANCE
- INTERNAL CONTROLS
- WORKSHOPS

Human Performance Links

- NERC Human Performance Page
- WECC Human Performance Work Group
- INPO Human Performance Reference Manual

<https://rfirst.org/KnowledgeCenter/Risk%20Analysis/HP/>



Technical Talk with RF



Technical Talk with RF is typically scheduled the third Monday of each month 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Save the date for our next event,
Monday, August 15

The next *Tech Talk* will include guest presentations from **Talen Energy** and **DTE Energy** on their **Internal Control Programs**. Please invite not just compliance personnel, but also Internal Control Champions, and all those associated with designing, developing, implementing, and monitoring internal controls.

No Registration Required

- [Calendar Reminder](#)
- [Webex Link](#)



Follow us on:



ReliabilityFirst

Annual Reliability and Compliance Workshop



Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: 3 Summit Park Drive, Suite 530 • Cleveland, OH 44131

The theme of this year's workshop is *Embracing the Transformation*. Our world and industry are evolving at a rapid pace, including the associated risks. The changing generation mix, inverter-based resources, virtualization, cloud computing, extreme weather, plus evolving cyber and physical security threats, all amid a pandemic, impact every aspect of how we perform our jobs to preserve and maintain reliability, resilience, and security. This workshop will help entities and stakeholders gain a deeper understanding of how we can collaboratively mitigate the known risks while anticipating emerging risks.

This event will be a hybrid workshop, meaning that we will host guests both **in-person** and **virtually**. The in-person meeting will be limited to 125 RF Registered Entity guests at our newly renovated facility on the 5th floor of our offices. To accommodate as many Registered Entities as possible, we are limiting the **in-person** attendance to **eight persons** per NCR number. There are no limitations regarding **virtual** (Webex) registration. Please encourage your coworkers, staff, and stakeholders to sign-up to attend.



REGISTER TODAY -> [Eventbrite Registration Link](#)

Follow us on:



GRIDSEC CON 2022

NERC • E-ISAC • RELIABILITYFIRST

GridSecCon Registration is Open

NERC, the E-ISAC, and ReliabilityFirst are co-hosting the 11th grid security conference on October 18–19, with training opportunities available October 17. Once again, GridSecCon will be held virtually. Registration can be found on the E-ISAC website [here](#), and the agenda is located [here](#).

At GridSecCon 2022 you can participate in:

- World-class training sessions
- Cutting-edge discussions, breakout sessions, and keynotes
- In-depth presentations on emerging cyber and physical threats
- Policy updates, lessons learned, and best practices

This year attendees can optimize their GridSecCon experience and chose breakout sessions from six conference tracks: cyber or physical security, supply chain issues, diversity and inclusion, human performance, and security policy matters.



Follow us on:



We Are All Connected!

**These engagements are
about building relationships
with our stakeholders so
we are all successful!**



Tell Some Stories!



“STORIES ARE JUST
DATA WITH A SOUL.”

DR. BRENÉ BROWN - UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



National Standard of Canada for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace

Reliability First

5th Annual Human Performance Workshop

August 4 2022



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada

”

Inquire
Inspire
Improve

Our Purpose

Inspiring hope:

Our *lives depend*
on it.



Mental Health

What the data is telling us

Mental Health

- A **state of well-being** in which the individual realizes his or her own **abilities**, can **cope** with the normal stresses of life, can **work** productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a **contribution** to his or her community.
- In this positive sense, mental health is the **foundation of well-being and effective functioning** for an individual and for a community.





1 in 3

Mental Health in the U.S.A.

IN 2014,
\$186
BILLION



Was Spent on
Health Care
Services to Treat
Mental Health
Disorders.¹



44.7 MILLION

Or 18.3% of US Adults 18 or Older Reported
Any Mental Illness **IN 2016.**²

IN 2015,
8.8% OF ADULTS



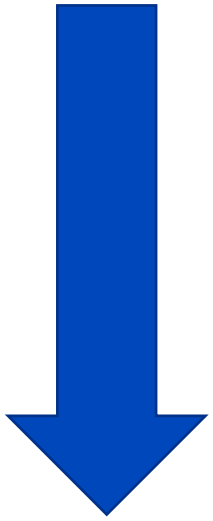
Aged 18-64 Reported Visiting a Mental
Health Provider in the Past 12 Months.³

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. *Behavioral Health Spending & Use Accounts, 1986-2014*. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; 2016. HHS publication SMA-16-4975.

2. National Institute of Mental Health. Mental illness website. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness.shtml>. Accessed July 13, 2018.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Data table for Figure 16. Health care visits in the past 12 months among children aged 2-17 and adults aged 18 and over, by age and provider type: United States, 1997, 2006, and 2015. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hus/2016/fig16.pdf>. Accessed July 13, 2018.

**Mental Health
System**



Workplaces

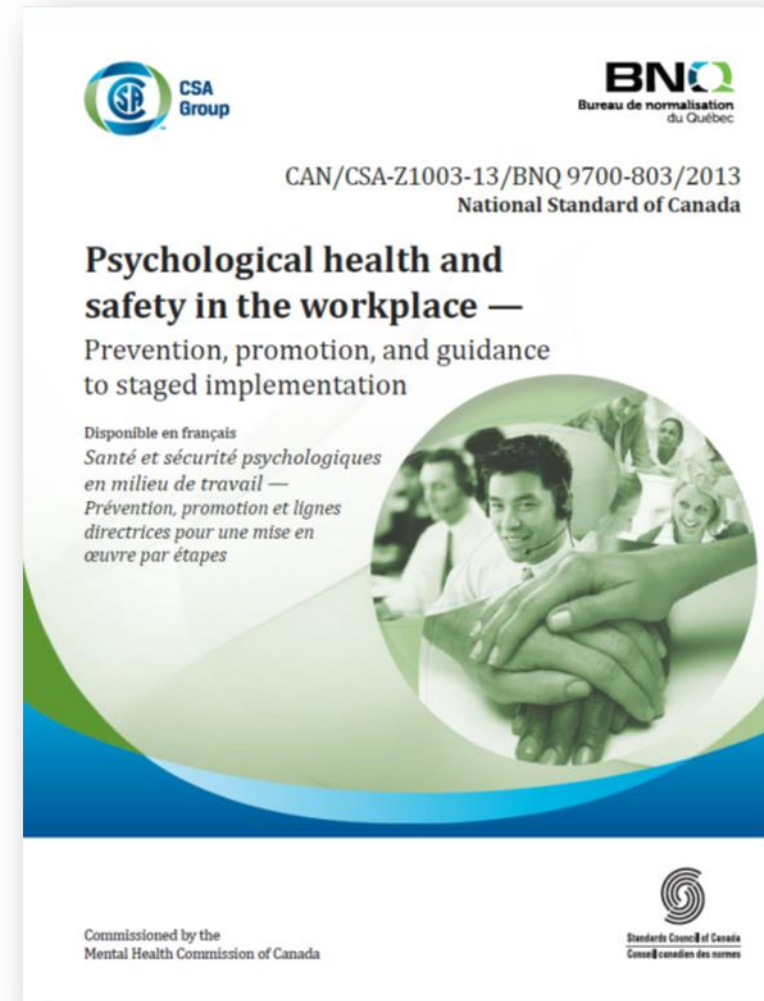




Canada's National Standard

Voluntary Guidance for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace

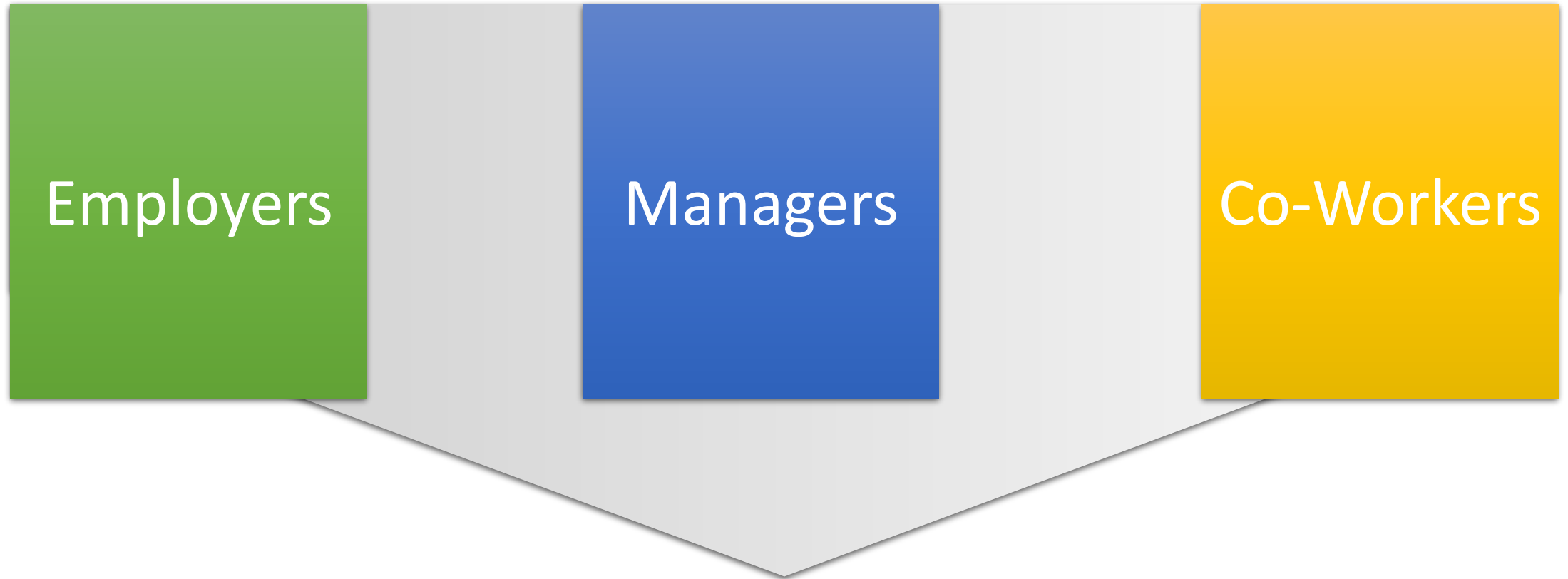
**A voluntary framework
for creating and
sustaining a
psychological health and
safety system.**





A workplace that **promotes** worker's psychological well-being and actively works to **prevent** harm to worker psychological health including in negligent, reckless or intentional ways.

PHS in the WORKPLACE



All have a role to play!

5 Pillars to Your Workplace Mental Health Strategy

Programs

Workplace awareness campaigns

Occupational health services department

Integrated wellness program

Peer support programs

Self-help tools

Policies

Accommodation policies

Return to work plans

Employee recognition

Space for privacy (e.g. quiet room)

Benefits

EAP or EFAP

STD & LTD leave

Paid leave for medical appointments or family obligations

Prescription drug coverage

Coverage for psychological services

Training

Resiliency

Mental health training (e.g. MHFA)

Anti-stigma training (e.g. The Working Mind)

Respect in the workplace

Management training

Assessment


Employee surveys (Guarding Minds @ Work)


Interactive Audit Tool

Mental Health at Work (Excellence Canada)

Health risk assessments




 **CSA Group**

 **BNQ**
Bureau de normalisation
du Québec


CAN/CSA-Z1003-13/BNQ 9700-803/2013
National Standard of Canada

Psychological health and safety in the workplace — Prevention, promotion, and guidance to staged implementation

*Disponible en français
Santé et sécurité psychologiques
en milieu de travail —
Prévention, promotion et lignes
directrices pour une mise en
œuvre par étapes*



Commissioned by the
Mental Health Commission of Canada

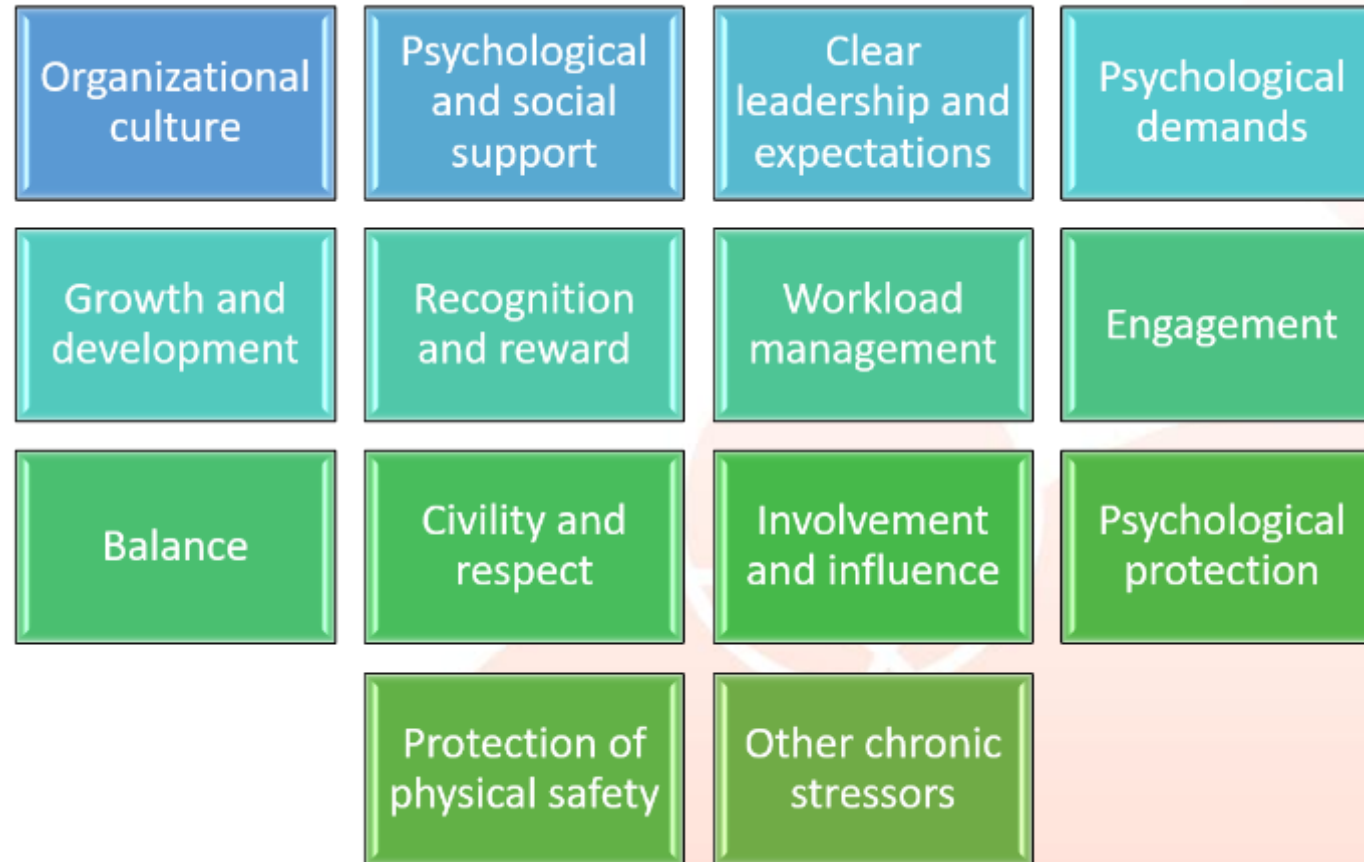

Mental Health Commission of Canada
Conseil canadien des comités

Risk Mitigation Process

- Hazard identification
- Hazard elimination
- Risk assessment
- Risk control
- Prioritization



Workplace Factors





Protection of Physical Safety

WARNING



**NO BULLYING
OR HARASSMENT
ALLOWED**

Psychological
Protection

Psychological & Social Support



Management System



Evidence of ROI for WMH Strategy

“Mental health programs are more likely to achieve positive ROI **when they support employees along the whole spectrum of mental health**, from promotion of well-being to intervention and care, **as well as the elimination or reduction of workplace hazards** that could psychologically harm an employee.”



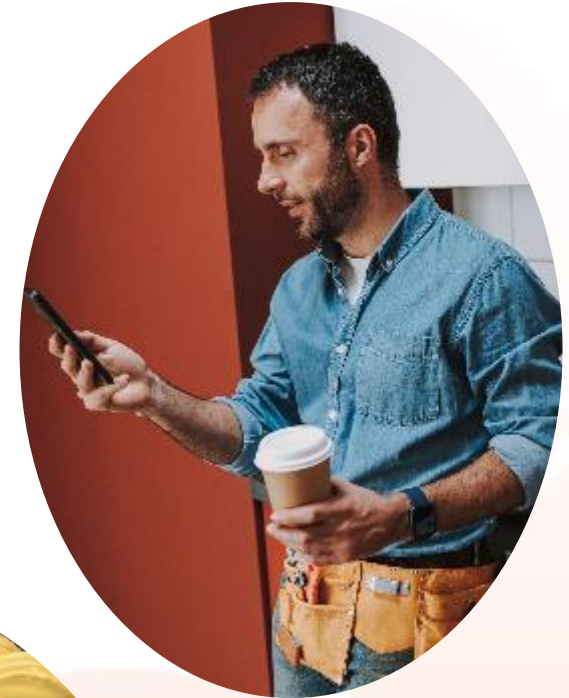
Source: [The ROI in workplace mental health programs: Good for people, good for business, Deloitte, 2019](#)

Call to Action

Take a step toward
a psychologically
healthy and safe
workplace



Andriy Blokhin/Adobe Stock



Need More Help?

- Visit the [MHCC website](#) for more info and links to helpful resources
- [Book a webinar](#) or training for your workplace
- [Contact us](#) to discuss your support needs or to schedule an internal PHS audit

Thank you



Liz Horvath

Manager, Workplace Mental Health
lhovath@mentalhealthcommission.ca



Mental Health
Commission
of Canada

Commission de
la santé mentale
du Canada



Human Performance– Emerging Threats to the BES (CIP)

David Sopata Principal Reliability Consultant
August 4, 2022

Limited Disclosure



A little bit about me



David Sopata, CISA, CISSP, GIAC GRID

**Principal Reliability Consultant, Entity Engagement,
ReliabilityFirst**

David joined ReliabilityFirst in 2012, and has participated in appraisal engagements, leads and participates in certification reviews, participates in outreach efforts such as assist visits, and provides guidance to entities in CIP compliance, internal controls and helps in the development of maturity models and security assessment tools. David was a CIP Auditor until 2014, where he participated in and led multiple NERC CIP audits, helped in developing the appraisal model, and participated in the first early appraisal assessment pilots. David previously worked at a security consulting firm for 4 years and has several cybersecurity and auditing certifications. David holds a Bachelors degree in Information Security.



Agenda

- **IEEE-NERC Security Integration Project**
- **How to define threat and how does it relate to risk and vulnerabilities?**
- **Current tools to help communicate threat and threat groups**
- **Discussion of different threats that are affecting common IT and OT/ICS systems**
- **Potential ways of operationalizing threat information to help with incident response**



IEEE-NERC Security Integration Project Overview

- **Integrating security and engineering practices**
- **Identified by both NERC and IEEE PES leaderships as a high priority topic**
- **Fast-track project sponsored by IEEE technical committees and NERC created to publish report by Q4 2022**



What is Threat?

➤ **Knowing the difference between risk, threat, and vulnerability can be very challenging as people within industry and cybersecurity use these interchangeably.**

- Risk

- “is the potential for loss, damage or destruction of assets or data caused by a cyber threat.”

- Vulnerability

- “a weakness in your infrastructure, networks or applications that potentially exposes you to threats.”

- Threat

- “is a process that magnifies the likelihood of a negative event, such as the exploit of a vulnerability.”

<https://www.kennasecurity.com/blog/risk-vs-threat-vs-vulnerability/>

Limited Disclosure

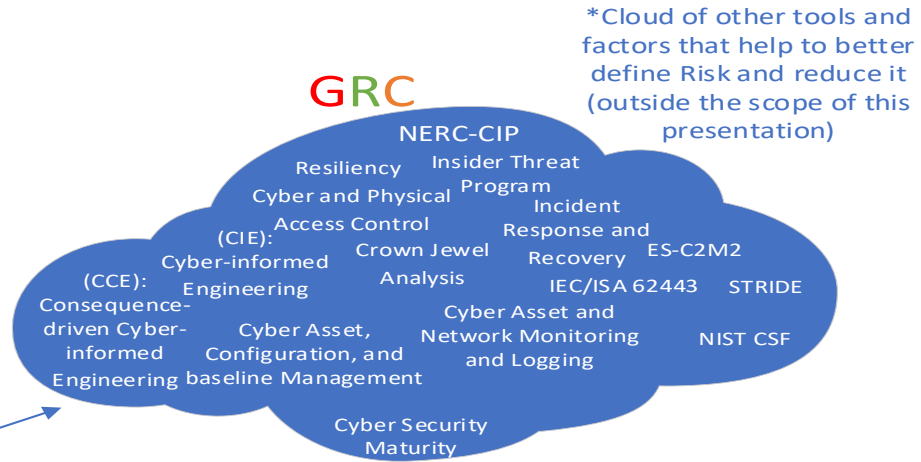


Relationship of Threat in GRC

GRC
(Governance
Risk and
Compliance)

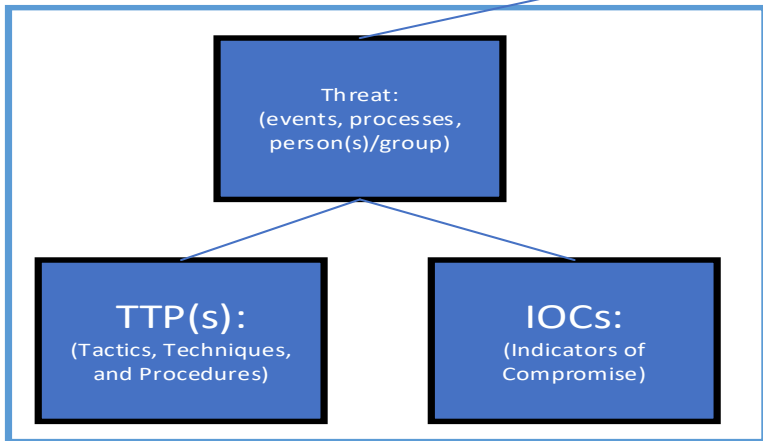
G
Assets:
(people, facilities,
processes, technology,
data.)

R
Risk

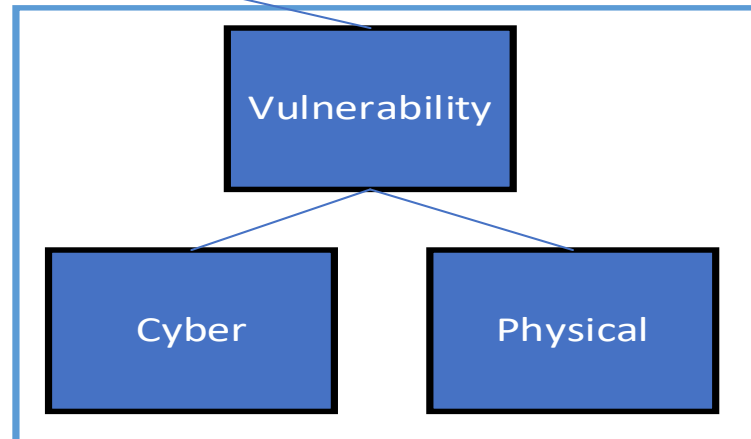


*Cloud of other tools and factors that help to better define Risk and reduce it (outside the scope of this presentation)

*Our main scope for today



*We'll talk a little bit about this today



Note - Using the generic definition of **asset, **cyber asset**, and **facilities** not the NERC Glossary definitions.

Forward Together • **ReliabilityFirst**

Limited Disclosure



Preparing for the Future through the Past

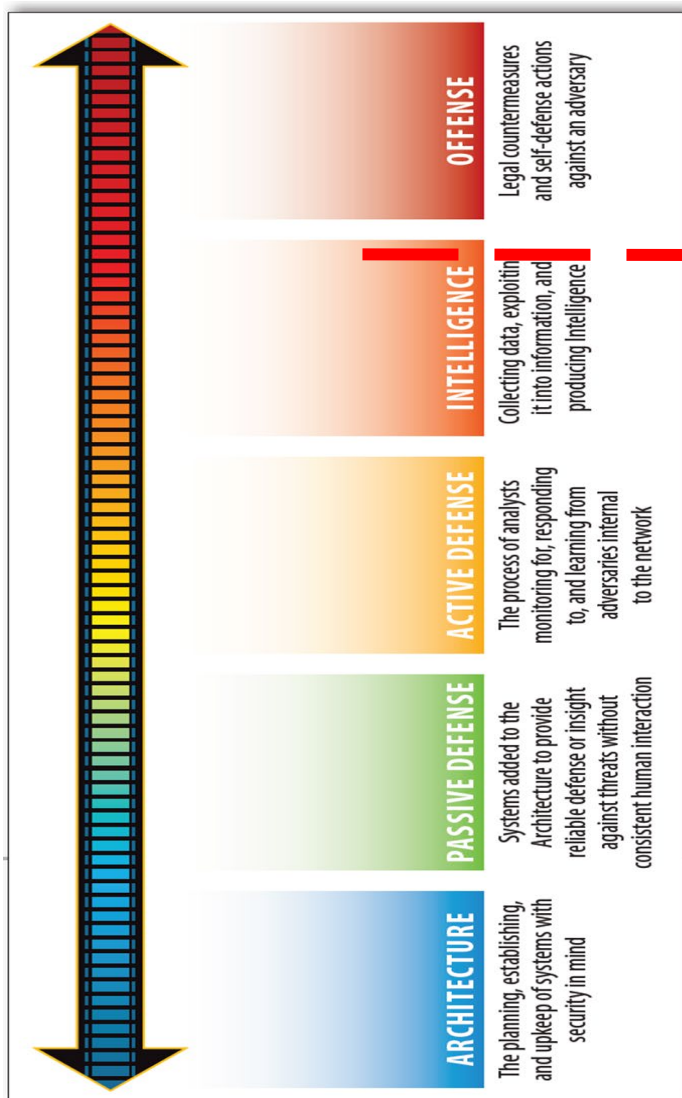
- **Threat Analysis and Threat Intelligence is based off information from the past to help us prepare for a future potential incident**
- **Threat Information sharing through organizations like the E-ISAC and other sources helps the industry work on fresh, applicable, and actionable information**
- **Organizations prepare for an incident by having good incident response plans, collection capabilities, tools, and playbooks to analyze and act upon this information during and after an incident**



MODELS FOR COMMUNICATING THREAT



Value, Maturity Scale and Pyramid of Pain



The Pyramid of Pain



Figure 1. The Sliding Scale of Cyber Security

<https://www.sans.org/reading-room/whitepapers/ActiveDefense/sliding-scale-cyber-security-36240>

<https://detect-respond.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-pyramid-of-pain.html>

* TTPs are Tactics, Techniques and Procedures



ICS Cyber Kill Chain

- The original Cyber Kill Chain was developed by Lockheed Martin to be able to better communicate the stages an adversary would take during an attack campaign.
- In 2015, SANS came out with an updated version specific for ICS environments creating a stage 1 (this follows the original would equate compromising the Entity's Corporate Environment) and stage 2 where material attacks on the ICS environment actually take place (this would equate to compromising the EMS/GMS, Substation, generation plant, etc.).

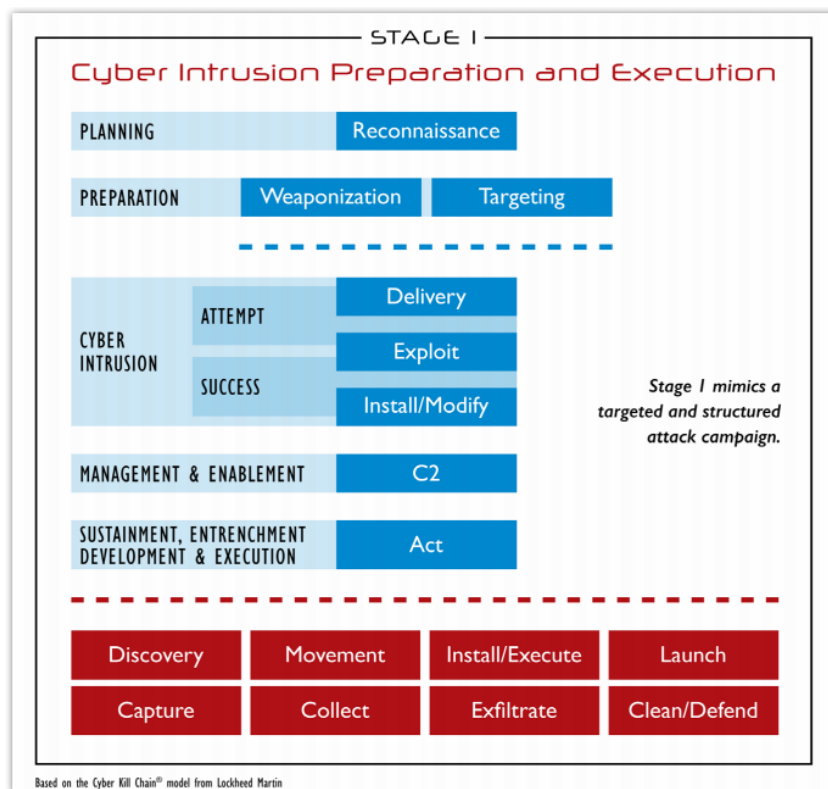


Figure 1. Stage 1: Cyber Intrusion Preparation and Execution

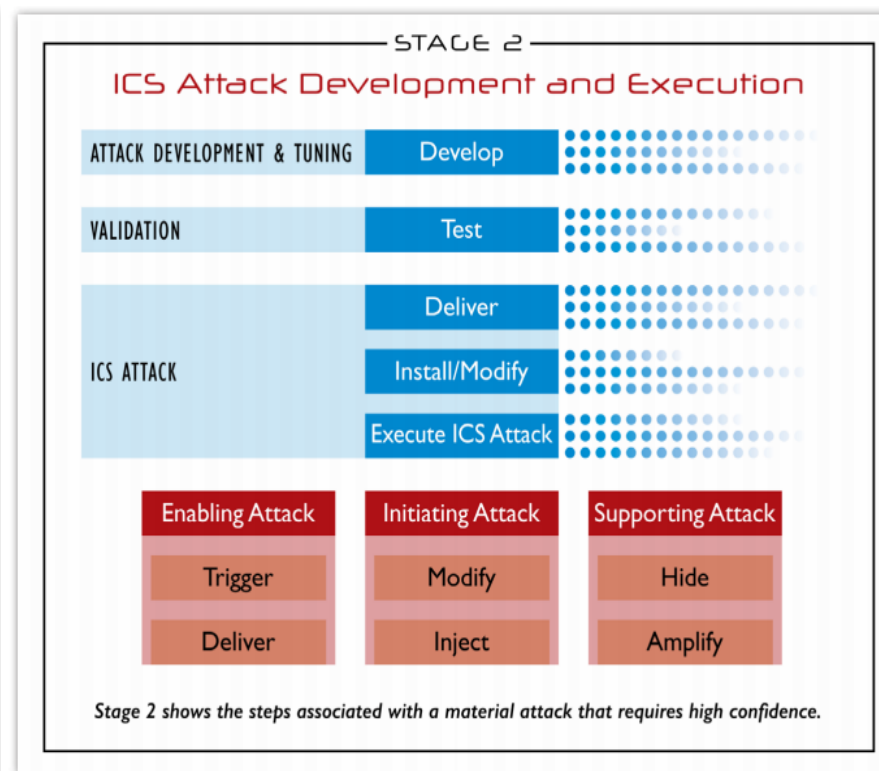


Figure 2. Stage 2: ICS Attack Development and Execution



Enterprise and ICS MITRE ATT&CK®

SANDWORM Stage 1 Capability (Enterprise MITRE ATT&CK® Framework)

3	Black Energy											
4	Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Collection	Command and Control	Exfiltration	Impact
5	Drive-by Compromise	AppleScript	.bash_profile and .bashrc	Access Token Manipulation	Access Token Manipulation	Account Manipulation	Account Discovery	AppleScript	Audio Capture	Commonly Used Port	Automated Exfiltration	Account Access Removal
6	Exploit Public-Facing Application	CMSTP	Accessibility Features	Accessibility Features	Binary Padding	Bash History	Application Window Discovery	Application Deployment Software	Automated Collection	Communication Through Removable Media	Data Compressed	Data Destruction
7	External Remote Services	Command-Line Interface	Account Manipulation	AppCert DLLs	BITS Jobs	Brute Force	Browser Bookmark Discovery	Component Object Model and Distributed COM	Clipboard Data	Connection Proxy	Data Encrypted	Data Encrypted for Impact
8	Hardware Additions	Compiled HTML File	AppCert DLLs	AppInit DLLs	Bypass User Account Control	Credential Dumping	Domain Trust Discovery	Services	Data from Information Repositories	Custom Command and Control Protocol	Data Transfer Size Limits	Defacement
9	Replication Through Removable Media	Component Object Model and Distributed COM	AppInit DLLs	Application Shimming	Clear Command History	Credentials from Web Browsers	File and Directory Discovery	Internal Spearphishing	Data from Local System	Custom Cryptographic Protocol	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Disk Content Wipe
10	Spearphishing Attachment	Control Panel Items	Application Shimming	Bypass User Account Control	CMSTP	Credentials in Files	Network Service Scanning	Logon Scripts	Data from Network Shared Drive	Data Encoding	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Disk Structure Wipe
11	Spearphishing Link	Dynamic Data Exchange	Authentication Package	DLL Search Order Hijacking	Code Signing	Credentials in Registry	Network Share Discovery	Pass the Hash	Data from Removable Media	Data Obfuscation	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Endpoint Denial of Service
12	Spearphishing via Service	Execution through API	BITS Jobs	Dylib Hijacking	Compile After Delivery	Elevated Execution with Prompt	Access	Network Sniffing	Pass the Ticket	Data Staged	Domain Fronting	Firmware Corruption
13	Supply Chain Compromise	Execution through Module Load	Bootkit	Elevated Execution with Prompt	Compiled HTML File	Forced Authentication	Password Policy Discovery	Remote Desktop Protocol	Email Collection	Domain Generation Algorithms	Scheduled Transfer	Inhibit System Recovery
14	Trusted Relationship	Exploitation for Client Execution	Browser Extensions	Emond	Component Firmware	Hooking	Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote File Copy	Input Capture	Domain Generation Algorithms	Fallback Channels	Network Denial of Service
15	Valid Accounts	Graphical User Interface	Change Default File Association	Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	Component Object Model Hijacking	Input Capture	Discovery	Remote Services	Man in the Browser	Multi-Hop Proxy		Resource Hijacking
16		InstallUI	Component Firmware	Extra Window Memory Injection	Connection Proxy	Input Prompt	Process Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Screen Capture	Multi-Stage Channels		Runtime Data Manipulation
17		Launchctl	Component Object Model Hijacking	File System Permissions Weakness	Control Panel Items	Kerberoasting	Query Registry	Shared Webroot	Video Capture	Multiband Communication		Service Stop
18		Local Job Scheduling	Create Account	Hooking	Control Panel Items	Keychain	Remote System Discovery	SSH Hijacking	Keychain	Multilayer Encryption		Stored Data Manipulation
19		LSASS Driver	DLL Search Order Hijacking	Options Injection	Image File Execution or Information	Decofuse/Decode Files and Relay	Security Software Discovery	Taint Shared Content	Port Knocking			System Shutdown/Reboot
20		Mhta	Dylib Hijacking	Launch Daemon	Disabling Security Tools	Network Sniffing	Software Discovery	Third-party Software	Remote Access Tools			Transmitted Data Manipulation
21		PowerShell	Emond	New Service	DLL Search Order Hijacking	Password Filter DLL	Discovery	System Information	Windows Admin Shares	Remote File Copy		
22		Regsvcs/Regasm	External Remote Services	Parent PID Spoofing	DLL Side-Loading	Private Keys	Discovery	System Network Configuration	Windows Remote Management	Standard Application Layer Protocol		
23		Regsvr32	File System Permissions Weakness	Path Interception	Execution Guards	Security Memory	Discovery	System Network Configuration		Standard Cryptographic Protocol		
24		Rundll32	Hidden Files and Directories	Plist Modification	Exploitation for Defense Evasion	Steal Web Session Cookie	Discovery	System Owner/User		Standard Non-Application Layer Protocol		
25		Scheduled Task	Hooking	Port Monitors	Extra Window Memory Injection	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Discovery	System Service Discovery		Uncommonly Used Port		
26		Scripting	Hypervisor	PowerShell Profile	File and Directory	Permissions Modification	Discovery	System Time Discovery		Web Service		
27		Service Execution	Image File Execution Options Injection	Process Injection	File Deletion		Discovery	Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion				

ELECTRUM Stage 2 Capability (ICS MITRE ATT&CK® Framework)

2	ICS Initial Access	ICS Execution	ICS Persistence	ICS Evasion	ICS Discovery	ICS Lateral Movement	ICS Collection	ICS Command and Control	ICS Inhibit Response Function	ICS Impair Process Control	ICS Impact
3	Data Historian Compromise	Change Program State	Hooking	Exploitation for Evasion	Control Device Identification	Default Credentials	Automated Collection	Commonly Used Port	Activate Firmware Update Mode	Brute Force I/O	Damage to Property
4	Drive-by Compromise	Command-Line Interface	Module Firmware	Indicator Removal on Host	I/O Module Discovery	Exploitation of Remote Services	Data from Information Repositories	Connection Proxy	Alarm Suppression	Change Program State	Denial of Control
5	Engineering Workstation Compromise	Execution through API	Program Download	Masquerading	Network Connection Enumeration	External Remote Services	Detect Operating Mode	Standard Application Layer Protocol	Block Command Message	Masquerading	Denial of View
6	Exploit Public-Facing Application	Graphical User Interface	Project File Infection	Rogue Master Device	Network Service Scanning	Program Organization Units	Detect Program State		Block Reporting Message	Modify Control Logic	Loss of Availability
7	External Remote Services	Man in the Middle	System Firmware	Rootkit	Network Sniffing	Remote File Copy	I/O Image		Block Serial COM	Modify Parameter	Loss of Control
8	Internet Accessible Device	Program Organization Units	Valid Accounts	Spoof Reporting Message	Remote System Discovery	Valid Accounts	Location Identification		Data Destruction	Module Firmware	Loss of Productivity and Revenue
9	Replication Through Removable Media	Project File Infection		Utilize/Change Operating Mode	Serial Connection Enumeration		Monitor Process State		Denial of Service	Program Download	Loss of Safety
10	Spearphishing Attachment	Scripting					Point & Tag Identification		Device Restart/Shutdown	Rogue Master Device	Loss of View
11	Supply Chain Compromise	User Execution					Manipulate I/O Image		Service Stop	Manipulation of Control	Manipulation of View
12	Wireless Compromise						Role Identification		Spoof Alarm Settings	Spoof Reporting Message	Theft of Operational Information
13							Screen Capture		Modify Control Logic	Unauthorized Command Message	
14									Program Download		
15									Rootkit		
16									System Firmware		























<https://mitre-attack.github.io/attack-navigator/enterprise/>

<https://www.dragos.com/mitre-attack-for-ics/>



<https://www.dragos.com/resource/mapping-industrial-cybersecurity-threats-to-mitre-attack-for-ics/>



ICS Threat Groups from Dragos and ICS MITRE ATT&CK®

 <p>ERYTHRITE SINCE 2020</p> <p>ERYTHRITE is an activity group that broadly targets organizations in the U.S. and Canada with ongoing, iterative malware campaigns.</p>	 <p>KOSTOVITE SINCE 2021</p> <p>In March of 2021, the activity group KOSTOVITE compromised a renewable energy operator.</p>	 <p>PETROVITE SINCE 2019</p> <p>PETROVITE demonstrates Stage 1 of the ICS Kill Chain capabilities and targets mining and energy operations in Kazakhstan.</p>	  <p>KAMACITE SINCE 2014</p> <p>Known to facilitate operations leading to disruptive ICS attack</p>	 <p>COVELLITE SINCE 2017</p> <p>IT compromise with hardened anti-analysis malware against industrial orgs</p>	  <p>ELECTRUM SINCE 2016</p> <p>Electric grid disruption and long-term persistence</p>	  <p>DYMALLOY SINCE 2016</p> <p>Deep ICS environment information gathering, operator credentials, industrial process details</p>	 <p>MAGNALLIUM SINCE 2017</p> <p>IT network limited, information gathering against industrial orgs</p>
 <p>STIBNITE SINCE 2019</p> <p>VPN compromise of IT networks to conduct reconnaissance</p>	 <p>TALONITE SINCE 2019</p> <p>Focused on physical destruction and long-term persistence</p>	 <p>VANADINITE SINCE 2019</p> <p>IT compromise and information gathering</p>	  <p>XENOTIME SINCE 2014</p> <p>Focused on physical destruction and long-term persistence</p>	 <p>RASPITE SINCE 2017</p> <p>IT network limited, information gathering on electric utilities with some similarities to CHRYSENE.</p>	 <p>HEXANE SINCE 2018</p> <p>IT compromise and information gathering against ICS entities</p>	 <p>PARISITE SINCE 2017</p> <p>VPN compromise of IT networks to conduct reconnaissance</p>	 <p>WASSONITE SINCE 2018</p> <p>IT compromise and information gathering</p>
 <p>ALLANITE SINCE 2017</p> <p>Watering-hole and phishing leading to ICS recon and screenshot collection</p>	 <p>CHRYSENE SINCE 2017</p> <p>IT compromise, information gathering and recon against industrial orgs</p>						

Legend:

-  Targeted Energy industry and USA/North America
-  Have shown high TTP capability in stage 2

*Note, All of these groups have bridged the knowledge/technical gap from Stage 1 (Enterprise IT) to Stage 2 (ICS)

*There are a total of **129 known threat groups** for the Stage 1 tracked on Enterprise MITRE ATT&CK® site.

<https://collaborate.mitre.org/attacks/index.php/Groups>
<https://www.dragos.com/threat-activity-groups/>

Limited Disclosure



Common Threat Group/Actor Categories

- **Insider**
- **General Hacker**
- **Organized Crime/Ransomware**
- **Spammers/Phishers/Scammers**
- **Terrorists/Activists**
- **Foreign Intelligence Services/Nation State**
- **Industrial Espionage/Sabotage**

Limited Disclosure



Threat Categories

➤ Ransomware

- Ransomware vs. wipers
- Multiple threat actors with different goals

➤ Software Supply Chain

➤ Insider Threat

- Malicious vs. Unwitting Insider
 - *Could be the catalyst for initial compromise for other threats or threat actors

➤ Emerging/Disruptive Technology

- Cloud Computing
- Drones

➤ Physical Attacks

- Metcalf

Limited Disclosure



TRISIS/TRITON/Triconex Attack

Threat Group: XENOTIME/TEMP.Veles

- Attacked a specialized Safety Integrated System (SIS) that are specialized systems that intervene at the process level to protect people, processes, and equipment
- Attack **reached Stage 2 (OT)** at an oil refinery environment
- **Highly targeted, requiring**
 - deep understanding of the technology and process being impacted
 - Large amount of time and resources likely with nation-state backing
- **Was a near miss in accomplishing their perceived goal of damaging equipment and causing harm to people.**
 - Showed this type of attack is possible

<https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0088/>

<https://www.dragos.com/wp-content/uploads/TRISIS-01.pdf>



The infographic features a dark blue background with a pink border. At the top left is a circular logo with 'Xt' in the center. To the right of the logo, the text 'XENOTIME' is written in large pink letters, with 'SINCE 2014' below it. The infographic lists several categories of information:

- ADVERSARY:**
 - + Unique tool development
- CAPABILITIES:**
 - + TRISIS
 - + Custom credential harvesting
 - + Off-the-shelf tools
- VICTIM:**
 - + Oil & Gas, Electric Utilities
 - + Middle East, North America
- INFRASTRUCTURE:**
 - + Virtual Private Server and compromised, legitimate infrastructure
 - + European web hosting providers
 - + Asian shipping company
- ICS IMPACT:**
 - + Demonstrated capability to execute disruptive ICS attack, such as the 2017 TRISIS incident

https://www.dragos.com/wp-content/uploads/relocated/t/Threat_Group_Trading_Cards_XENOTIME_XENOTIME-731x1024.png

Limited Disclosure



SIS and PS similarities

➤ **Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS) and Protection Systems (PS) are similar in that They both have:**

- A goal of ensuring that equipment fails in a fail-safe mode to protect the overall system or process.
- Work at level 1 and 0 of the Purdue Model
- Serial and network-based communication and management ports for:
 - Configuration and Calibration Management
 - Logging, alerting, and monitoring
 - Access Control
- Requires another workstation (permanent or transient) to interact with it or can potentially be accessed remotely through the network (Purdue Model Level 2)
- Guidance on designing, testing, and maintenance programs



Mapping the TRISIS Attack and 11/2/2021 Joint Review of Protection System Commissioning Programs

TRISIS Best Practices

- Start with advice from the vendor
- SIS should be deployed on isolated networks
- Controls to prevent physical unauthorized physical and logical access. Safety controls, equipment, or safety network
- Workstation, and software used to connect to the SIS systems should be secured
- Removable and transient cyber assets should be controlled and sanitized for potential malware prior to connecting to the SIS
- For SIS that have a programming and running mode it should be changed to running to prevent malicious or accidental modifications to configurations

<https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0088/>

<https://www.dragos.com/wp-content/uploads/TRISIS-01.pdf>

PSC Program Observed Best Practices for Consideration

- **Included the cyber security experts as participants in the commissioning process.**
As part of the commissioning process on tie lines, some participants employed back-to-back relay testing (i.e., testing in a laboratory environment) and end-to-end testing onsite.
- Required the commissioning group to review the settings and logic issued by the design engineering group.
- Ensured that the engineering drawings package identified all equipment that needed to be isolated or shorted to ensure adequate in-service protection throughout all stages of the project.
- Reported that when using a third-party contractor, it requires a company subject matter expert to review the commission test results before placing the equipment in-service.

Limited Disclosure



Recap

- Know the difference between risk, threat, and vulnerabilities and how threat fits into Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC)
- Understand what Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) are and how easy/hard those are to change for the attacker
- Difference between Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the ICS Cyber Kill Chain
- High-level understanding of the known ICS threat landscape
- High-level understanding of some of the threat categories

Now I can talk about threats, how do I operationalize it to improve my cybersecurity program?

<https://mitre-attack.github.io/attack-navigator/enterprise/>

<https://www.dragos.com/mitre-attack-for-ics/>

<https://www.dragos.com/resource/2021-year-in-review/>

<https://www.dragos.com/resource/mapping-industrial-cybersecurity-threats-to-mitre-attack-for-ics/>



Operationalizing Threat Management

➤ Asset and Configuration Management

- Understand what assets are critical to your BES operations, mission, and business (Business Impact/Crown Jewel Analysis)
- Configuration baselines of cyber systems and cyber assets that are critical
- Network traffic baselines (what cyber assets should be talking to whom?)
- Increased collection capability of logging and monitoring of cyber systems, assets, and network traffic (Alerts, logs, Network Packet Captures/Netflow) i.e.

Increasing IT Situational Awareness



Operationalizing Threat Management Cont.

➤ Tabletop Exercises

- Based on current threat groups and threat categories by operationalizing real or simulated incidents (The ICS and Enterprise MITRE ATT&CK framework can help)
- Using the DHS/FEMA Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) and the CISA version for Cybersecurity (CTEP) frameworks
- Tool examples
 - RF has developed an Incident Response Assessment Tool (IRPAT). Please visit the <https://www.rfirst.org> [Contact Us](#) page and choose Resilience from the list of Areas.
 - Dragos Tabletop Exercise <https://www.dragos.com/tabletop-exercise/>
 - Backdoors & Breaches from Black Hills Security <https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/projects/backdoorsandbreaches/>
 - NUARI DECIDE Platform <https://nuari.net/decide/>

Note: This is not an endorsement of these tools or companies.

https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2%20-%20CTEP%20Exercise%20Planner%20Handbook%20%282020%29%20FINAL_508.pdf



Operationalizing Threat Management Cont.

➤ Threat Reporting

- The more we share as an industry, the more we can help each other with being able to detect, respond, and contain potential threats effectively and quicker.
 - This was a hard lesson learned from the Financial Industry with the FS-ISAC back in 2009-2012 timeframe with a rampant up-tick in account takeovers and DDoS attacks
- Some reporting is required through CIP-008, EOP-004, and DOE OE-417 standards.
- The Electric Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC)
<https://www.eisac.com/>
 - Provides resources and services for members to share and communicate threat intelligence information with peers within the Industry

<https://www.bankinfosecurity.com/interviews/bill-nelson-i-1758>

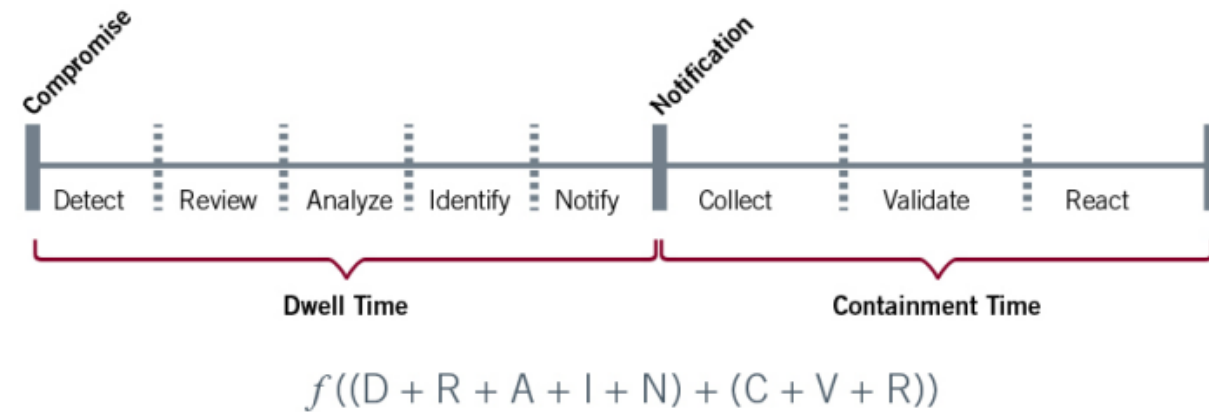


Operationalizing Threat Management Cont.

➤ Improving Incident Response Metrics from Mandiant

Time	Category	Measurement	Benefit
Dwell	Detect	Time from initial entry into the system/network to detection	Measures the effectiveness of detection systems and capabilities
	Review	Time from detection of the incident to analyst for review	Determines if staffing level is properly sized
	Analyze	Time to analyze the incident	Determines if the organization has the right expertise and tools and if the right escalation occurs
	Identify	Time to identify the affected assets, location, and owner	Measures the effectiveness of asset inventory
	Notify	Time to successfully notify appropriate contacts	Measures the effectiveness of contact database and communication plan
Containment	Collect	Time to collect live response data	Determines if the right tools are deployed to assist in collection
	Validate	Time to validate intrusion based on collected data	Determines if the right skill sets are in place at each level
	React	Time to react (contain, remove, etc.)	Determines if the right definition of remediation exists and if it is applied consistently

Table 1: DRAIN CVR Definitions



* Can use these metrics during tabletop exercises and attack simulations

https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2016/09/16/mandiant_rfi_response.pdf



Questions & Answers

Forward Together  **ReliabilityFirst**

Limited Disclosure

WHEN GOOD IS TOO GOOD

Brian Hattery, Planning & Engineering Supervisor
Transmission Field Services, AEP

AEP Background Info

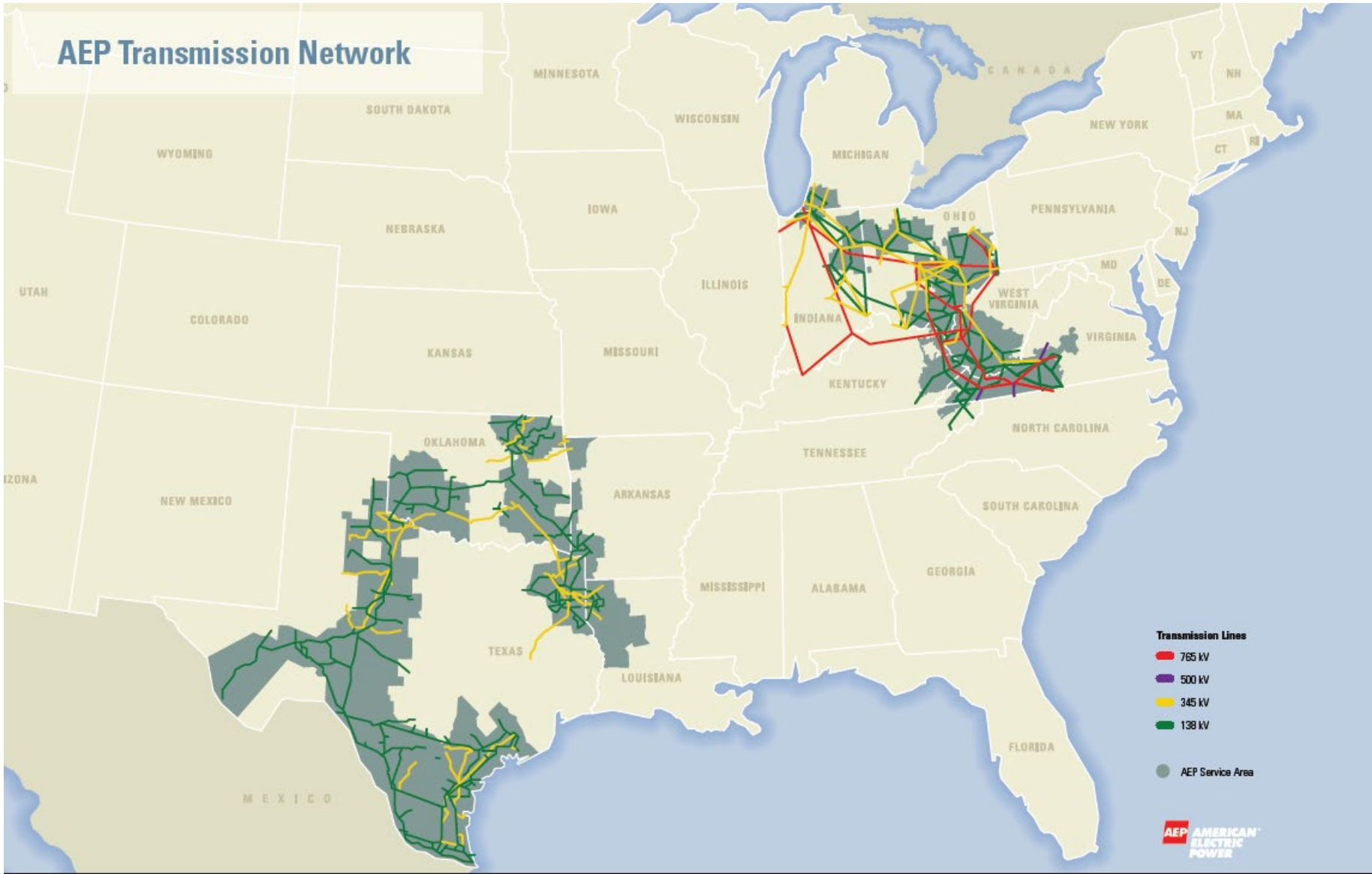
- American Electric Power has
 - Nearly 5.5 million regulated customers in 11 states
 - 40,000 miles transmission line and 223,000 miles of distribution lines
 - More 765 kV line than all other US systems combines
- Concerning batteries, AEP Transmission has
 - More than 3,000 substations
 - Over 3,800 stationary battery systems
 - Of those battery systems, over 60% are NERC applicable
 - Approximately 300 VRLA type on the system
 - All remaining are VLA



An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

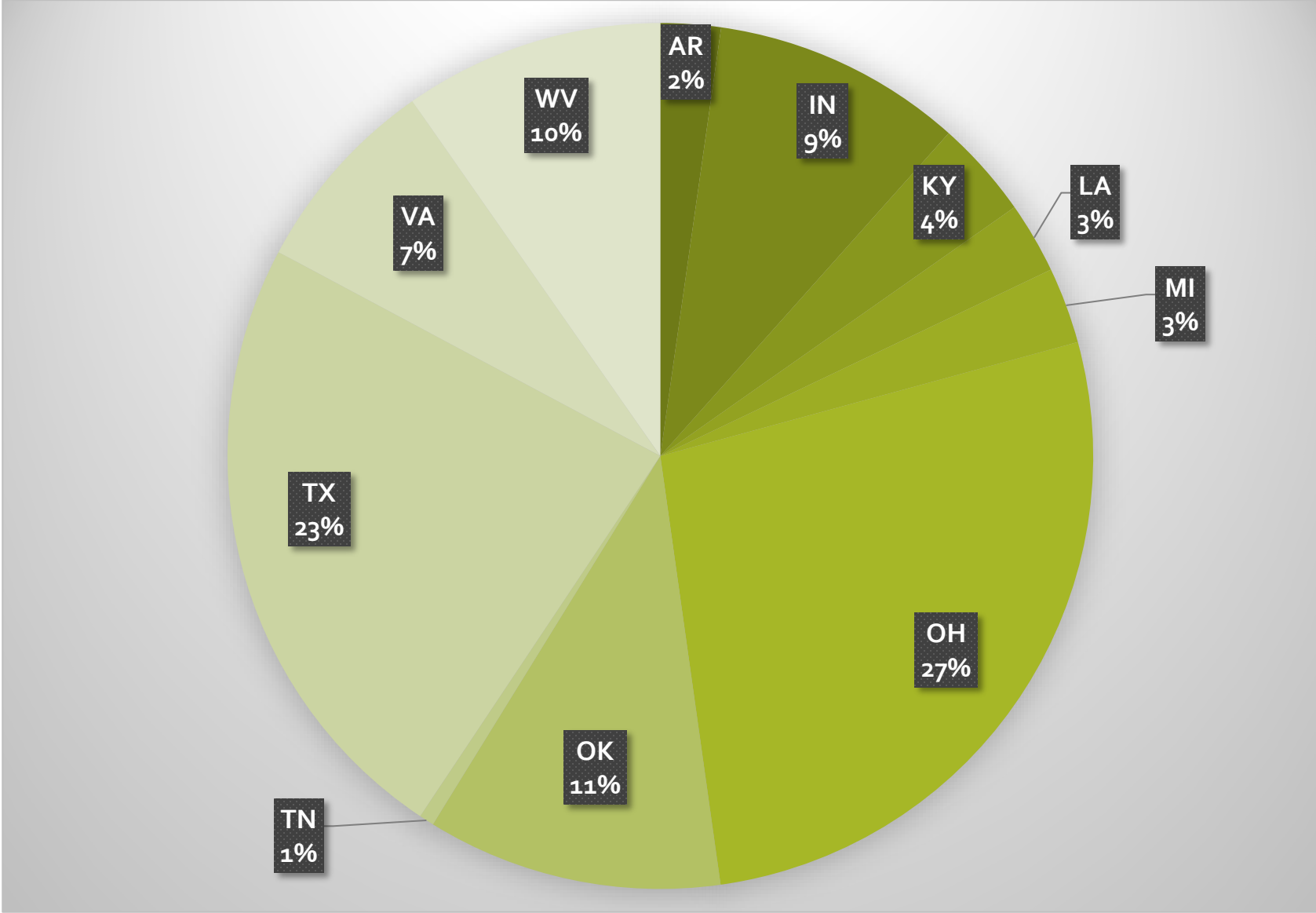
AEP Transmission



An AEP Company

BOUNDLESS ENERGY™

AEP Substations by State



DC Supply & AEP-T

- Field oversight -
 - DC Supply commissioning and maintenance practices are overseen by Transmission Field Services – Station Policies and Procedures team and the DC Supply working group
 - The Station P&P team establishes commissioning and maintenance policies and acts as a go-between for the field and the equipment standards groups
 - The working group is lead by P&P and consists of field and standards personnel and meets regularly
 - Discussions include problems, maintenance practices, updates, and policy changes

DC SUPPLY MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

Maintenance Practices

- Prior NERC PRC-005...

Good

Internal ohmic testing was happening in all regions

Testing regularly, annually or bi-annually

Bad

Each area had it's own standards

Different test sets used

Different test results

Testing jars only

No intercell connection tests

Response to PRC-005 - Standardization

- AEP transmission focused on standardization across all regions
 - A test set for all areas was chosen
 - Funds were secured to provide all areas with the test set
 - New testing standards and maintenance practices were written
 - Now testing individual cells and intercell connections
 - Expected test values were developed as a guide (using conductance)
 - All areas personally received the test sets and training in 2012.

Response to PRC-005 - Test Criteria

- Testing criteria was developed as part of the standardization
 - Cell conductance
 - 70% of expected conductance – Warning
 - 60% of expected conductance – Failed
 - Intercell connectors
 - Greater than 100 μOhms – Warning
 - Greater than 500 μOhms – Failed
- Response actions and time-frames are dictated by the degree of failure

Response to PRC-005

- To ensure NERC compliance, AEP transmission...
 - Uses an accelerated maintenance schedule
 - Bi-monthly checks to cover 4 calendar month tasks
 - Annually maintenance to cover the 18 months tasks
 - Uses a layered approach to analyzing test results
 - Test personnel reviews results before leaving the station
 - An internally created software analyzes the results and flags concerns
 - A local field engineer reviews the analysis and raw test results and takes action from there
 - The local field engineer is ultimately responsible for NERC compliance of batteries in their area

HOW GOOD BECAME TOO GOOD

New Employee, Fresh Eyes

- At the end of 2018, a new field engineer was hired within an area of AEP
- As part of his new duties, he was trained on how to test batteries and review the results
- During his first review of battery test results in spring of 2019, he noticed certain batteries in his area had abnormally low test results for the intercell connections
- He asked his supervisor, who had trained him, why the results were so low on some batteries, which triggered an investigation

Cell #	Strap
CELL01	1
CELL02	3
CELL03	1
CELL04	3
CELL05	3
CELL06	1
CELL07	3
CELL08	1
CELL09	3
CELL10	2
CELL11	1
CELL12	1
CELL13	1
CELL14	2
CELL15	4
CELL16	4
CELL17	3
CELL18	3
CELL19	3
CELL20	1

The Investigation

- The field supervisor initiated an investigation which determined:
 - In his region, a number of batteries had intercell connectors test abnormally low
 - <10 uOhms, when the expected range was 20-80 uOhms
 - All tests were performed by the same individual (who we'll call "Steve")
 - Steve had been performing annual battery tests since 2012 (and earlier), when the new standards were established
 - Steve was asked to demonstrate his testing procedures

Typical Test Process



The test begins with an internal cell test



- Then an intercell connection test is performed
- The connection resistance is determined by finding the difference between the tests

The Problem



Steve performed the internal cell test correctly



- However, when the Steve performed his intercell connection test, he placed his test lead on top of the connector
- This essentially left out the resistance of this connection point

The Results

- The investigation result
 - Steve believed he had been performing the tests correctly since 2012
 - He was genuinely surprised to learn he had been performing the tests incorrectly
 - Internal meetings were held with different compliance groups
 - It was determined that for every NERC applicable battery that Steve tested, potentially multiple violations had occurred
 - AEP self-reported to NERC

The Violation

Component Attributes	Maximum Maintenance Interval	Maintenance Activities
Protection System Station dc supply using Vented Lead-Acid (VLA) batteries not having monitoring attributes of Table 1-4(f).	4 Calendar Months	Verify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station dc supply voltage Inspect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrolyte level • For unintentional grounds
	18 Calendar Months	Verify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Float voltage of battery charger • Battery continuity • Battery terminal connection resistance • Battery intercell or unit-to-unit connection resistance Inspect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell condition of all individual battery cells where cells are visible – or measure battery cell/unit internal ohmic values where the cells are not visible • Physical condition of battery rack

Why was this Missed?

- The new field engineer started reviewing test data in 2018 – Why wasn't this caught earlier?
- The previous test reviewer was interviewed
- He had noticed the low test results, but did not think they were a problem
- The testing criteria only discussed high resistance values being a problem
- There was no protocol for test results being “too good”

Cell #	Test Day	Test Day	Test Day
	02-21-2017	01-15-2018	03-28-2019
	Strap (uOhms)	Strap (uOhms)	Strap (uOhms)
CELL01	26	1	25
CELL02	29	3	32
CELL03	25	1	21
CELL04	30	3	27
CELL05	26	3	39
CELL06	32	1	34
CELL07	22	3	42
CELL08	32	1	31
CELL09	27	3	36
CELL10	24	2	32
CELL11	26	1	37
CELL12	28	1	35
CELL13	30	1	27
CELL14	21	2	34
CELL15	24	4	44
CELL16	24	4	36
CELL17	34	3	36
CELL18	40	3	39
CELL19	25	3	35
CELL20	28	1	32
CELL21	37	2	37
CELL22	30	1	25
CELL23	29	2	40
CELL24	33	4	30
CELL25	28	4	37
CELL26	35	4	25
CELL27	28	3	27
CELL28	22	4	17
CELL29	24	2	37

The Mitigation

- Starting with Steve
 - Immediately, every battery Steve had tested that year was reexamined
 - Those with questionably low intercell connection resistances were retested and confirmed good
- How far had this spread locally?
 - Test results for all batteries in the region were examined
 - Since Steve had been testing batteries for over 20 years, and was around in 2012 when the new standards were established, he was considered “experienced”
 - He had been asked to train newer employees on battery testing for a number of years
 - However, it looked to be confined to Steve
 - Any other batteries with questionable test results were retested as a precaution

The Mitigation

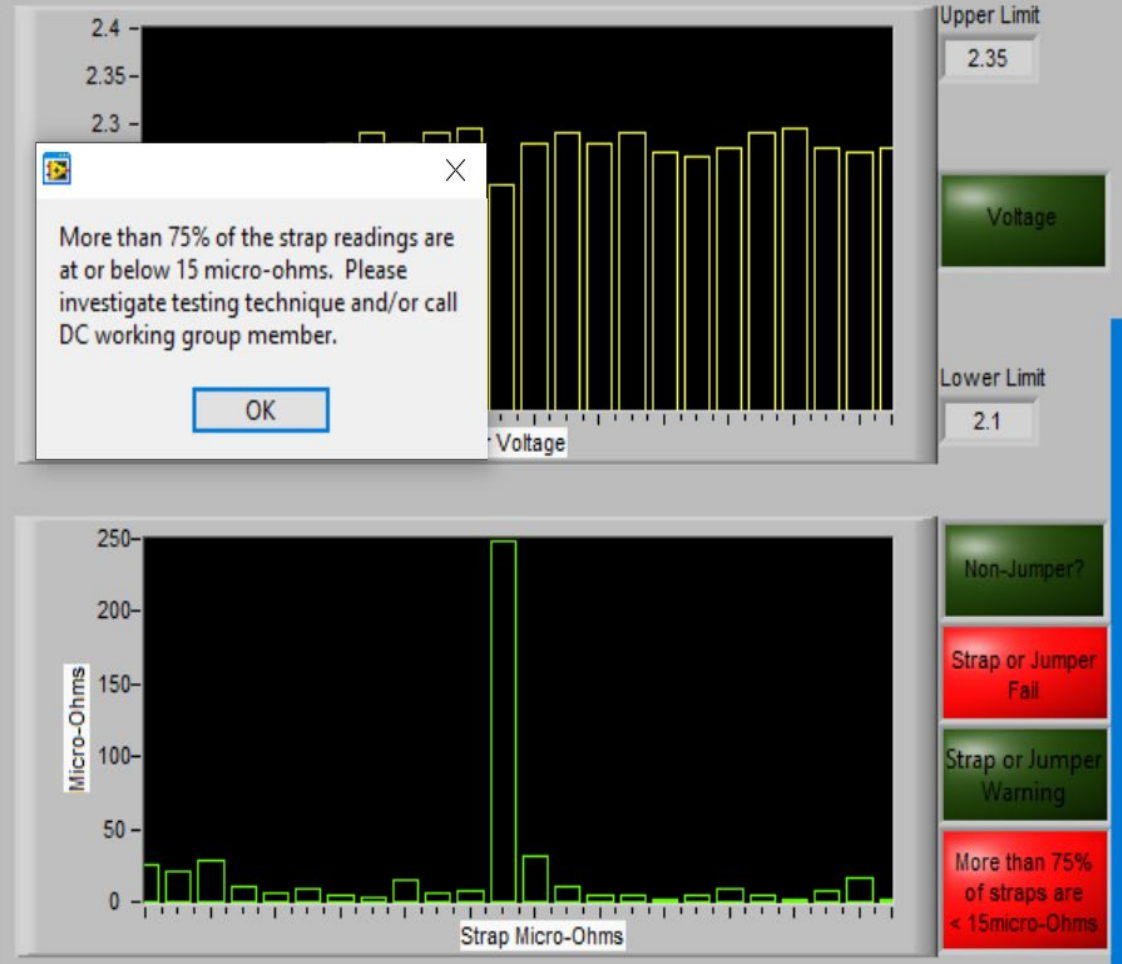
- Did this problem exist anywhere else?
 - Who else may be testing incorrectly in other regions of AEP?
 - A specialized report was created to look through AEP's database of test files to look for low strap values
 - Anything suspicious was investigated by local field engineers, including requesting a demonstration of testing methods
 - The report was then set up to run quarterly. So far, no additional problems have been found.

Battery		PRC 005					Strap
TFS Area	Location	Asset Name	SSC	Serial Nr	Applicable Version	Test Date	Data
		BATTERY1	APP	10204859	Version 2	1/14/2019	1
		BATTERY#1	RWH	10000	None	3/11/2019	1
		BATTERY	APP	10204590X	None	4/4/2019	1
		BATTERY	APP	1021223	Version 2	2/20/2019	1
		BATTERY1	APP	60V70GI175LA	Version 2	2/11/2019	1
		BATTERY 1	APP	1022506204B	None	2/13/2019	1
		STATION BATTERY	BUC	0204480	None	5/2/2019	1
		BATTERY BANK		10250167/008	ERCOT-T	5/28/2019	1
		BATTERY	APP	P125	None	2/12/2019	1
		BATTERY	HUN	10259110001	Version 2	1/7/2019	8
		BATTERY 1	APP	CB125	None	4/3/2019	1
		BATTERY BANK	RDK	T01275478232012	None	8/28/2019	1
		DICM BATTERY1	APP	DICM1	Version 2	1/16/2019	1
		DICM BATTERY2	APP	DICM2	Version 2	1/17/2019	1
		BATTERY BANK STA_1	AAA	T014100720131106	None	7/24/2019	3
		BATTERY #1	RWH	IND5714	None	4/4/2019	1
		BATTERY	RWH	10289910050	Version 2	1/29/2019	1
		BATTERY 1	APP	R98413	Version 2	3/25/2019	1
		BATTERY1	APP	SP93014	Version 2	2/11/2019	1
		BATTERY BATT	STE	0291581_026	Version 2	1/8/2019	5
		138KV BATTERY 1	APP	JF138252015	Version 2	1/17/2019	1
		STATION BATT	EC1	BATT3028_1	None	3/21/2019	1
		CANYON ROCK BATTERY	AB1	10298011/025	Version 2	6/11/2019	4
		BATTERY	APP	S54452	Version 2	2/27/2019	1
		BATTERY 1	APP	RAD06172015	None	2/7/2019	2
		BATTERY 1	APP	AUST6302015	None	1/24/2019	1

The Mitigation

- Additional Mitigation
 - The software that evaluates test results had added programming
 - Any batteries where greater than 75% of the intercell connections were less than 15 μOhms were flagged
 - The test reviewer is required to enter a comment on the flagged results

Battery	Mhos.	T-Comp. % Ref	Strap u_Ohm	Vdc
JAR01	551	80	25	2.201
JAR02	636	93	21	2.221
JAR03	513	75	28	2.201
JAR04	588	86	10	2.221
JAR05	443	65	6	2.201
JAR06	496	72	9	2.270
JAR07	576	84	4	2.280
JAR08	613	89	3	2.290
JAR09	537	78	15	2.280
JAR10	638	93	6	2.290
JAR11	594	87	7	2.295
JAR12	606	88	248	2.236
JAR13	551	80	32	2.280
JAR14	618	90	11	2.290
JAR15	522	76	4	2.280
JAR16	634	92	4	2.290
JAR17	551	80	1	2.270
JAR18	532	78	5	2.265
JAR19	514	75	9	2.275
JAR20	657	96	5	2.290
JAR21	638	93	1	2.295
JAR22	521	76	8	2.275
JAR23	572	83	16	2.270
JAR24	595	87	NA	2.275



The Mitigation

- Additional Mitigation
 - During 2019, every battery tester and all field engineers were trained on this event and the proper testing techniques
 - All testers were trained on how their actions kept AEP compliant with NERC standards
 - All appropriate battery policy documents were also updated

HOW DO WE STAY COMPLIANT?

18 Calendar Months

Verify:

- Float voltage of battery charger
- Battery continuity
- Battery terminal connection resistance
- Battery intercell or unit-to-unit connection resistance

Inspect:

- Cell condition of all individual battery cells where cells are visible – or measure battery cell/unit internal ohmic values where the cells are not visible
- Physical condition of battery rack

1- DETAILED BATTERY INSPECTIONS			
2	2-	VALIDATION	-
3	2.1	Battery Asset Information Validation	-
4	3-	BATTERY CONNECTIONS	-
5	3.1	Check battery connections to be tight.	-
6	4-	CELL VOLTAGES	-
7	4.1	Measure voltage of each individual Cell, where possible.	-
8	5-	CELL CONDUCTANCES	-
9	5.1	Measure Conductance across each Cell, where possible.	-
10	6-	INTERCELL OR UNIT-TO-UNIT CONNECTION RESISTANCE	-
11	6.1	Measure Strap connection resistance	-
12	7-	WATER ADDITIONS	-

2- BATTERY PERIODIC INSPECTION			
3- VISUAL INSPECTIONS			
3.1.	Visually inspect cell jars for electrolyte leakage. (If Electrolyte Leakage, Assess as "Fail"	-	-
3.2.	Visually inspect Plates, Posts, and Check for Heavy Cell Sedimentation.	-	-
3.3.	Visually inspect Electrolyte Level to be above "Min Line". (If battery can not be filled wit	-	-
3.4.	Visually inspect battery rack for Excessive rust or corrosion. (If Battery Rack contains E	-	-
3.5.	Visually check Battery Posts and Inter-cell Connectors for Excessive Dirt and Corrosion	-	-
3.6.	Visually check that battery rack is grounded.	-	-
3.7.	Check that vent fans and fan timers are operating properly. (Value Required)	-	Operating Properly
3.8.	Clean and wipe down cell containers.	-	-
4- BATTERY FLOAT VOLTAGE			

Lessons Learned

- A number of lessons were learned from this experience
 - Do not be too narrowly focused
 - Standards created looked only in one direction – Too High!
 - The question should have at least been discussed if results were too low
 - A conversation and a little imagination could have caught this problem years ago
 - Do not undervalue the importance of a fresh perspective
 - For nearly 6 years this problem was missed!
 - One pair of new eyes easily caught a problem that now can be clearly seen
 - All testing standards have been and are currently being reexamined by a compliance group for any potential deficiencies

Lessons Learned

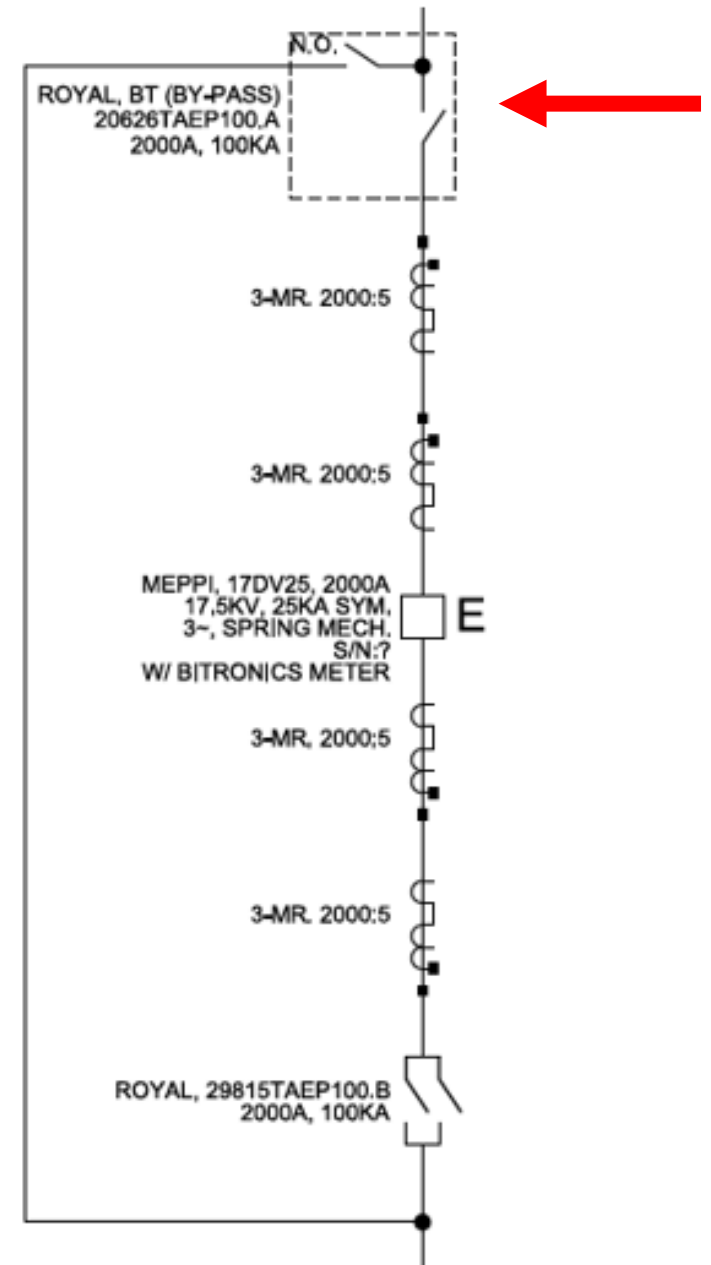
- A number of lessons were learned from this experience
 - You know what they say about assuming...
 - It was assumed for years that because Steve had been taught how to test, and was given a detailed testing guide (with pictures), he knew how to test correctly
 - And he was testing correctly, in every way but one
 - Assumptions are not safe

ROYAL 12 AND 34KV BYPASS/DISCONNECT SWITCH COMBO UNITS

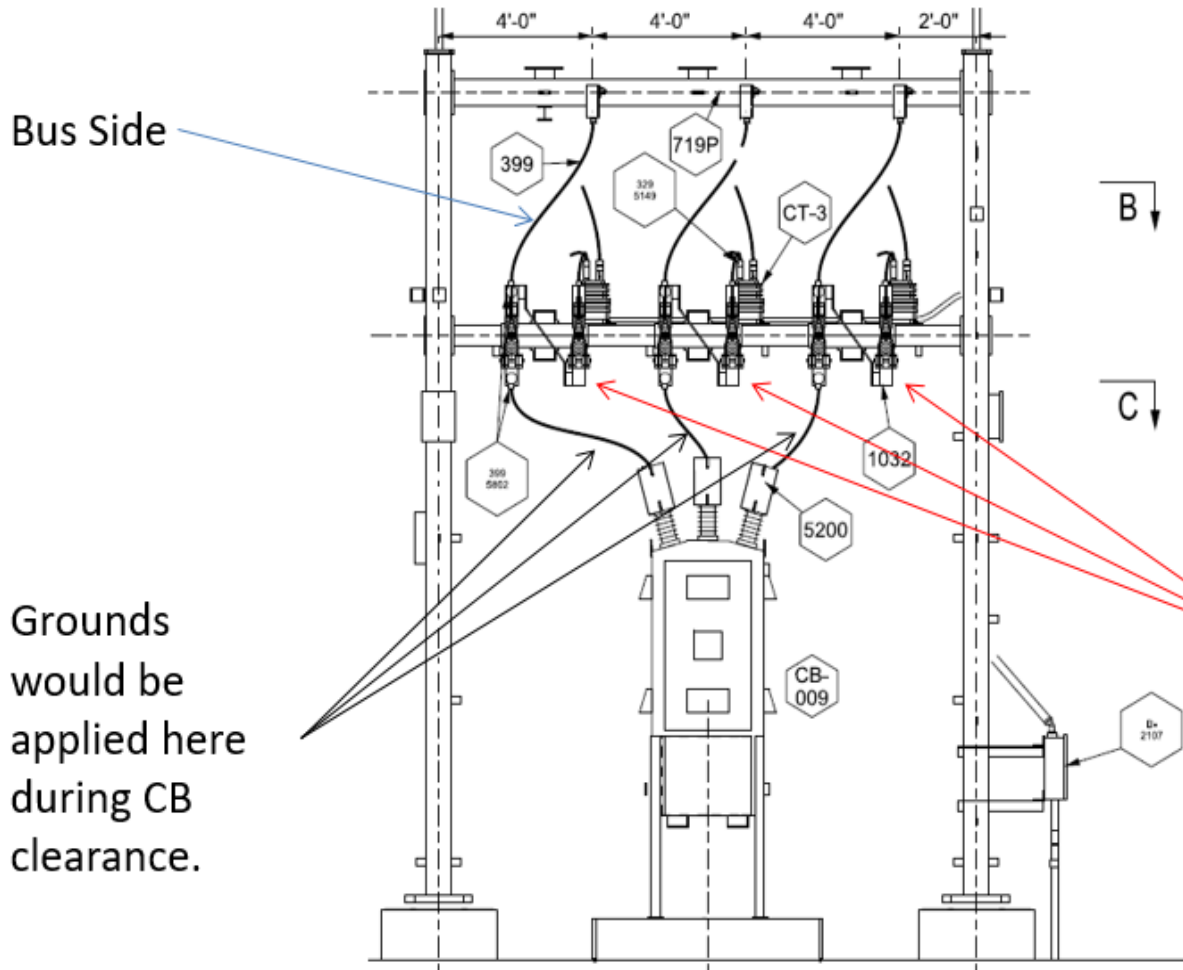
Bonus Content

Disconnect/Bypass Switches

- Beginning around 2017, low voltage construction has utilized a Royal combination switch that encompasses both a breaker disconnect and a bypass switch.
- Depending on the application, the bypass switch may have fuses instead of a solid blade.



On the Physical Prints



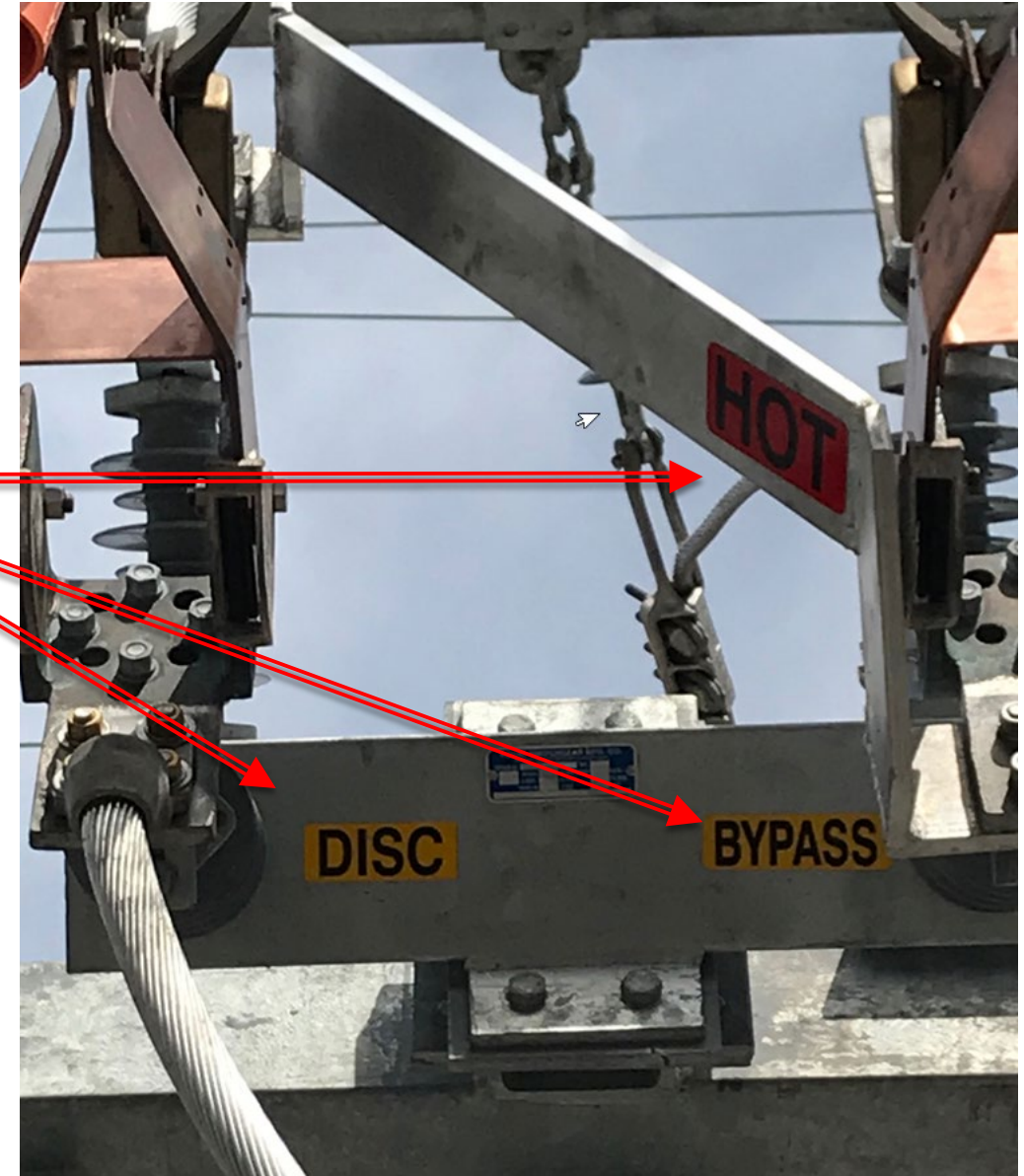
These points will remain energized during a VCR clearance.

Concerns

- Proximity between ground and energized 12kV requires awareness and planning. Even so, a moments inattention can be very serious.
- Hazard at the time of placing safety grounds, with energized equipment so close.
- Another hazard if working near the top of the VCB such as doing a bushing replacement.
- AND, horizontally adjacent switches have led to switching errors.

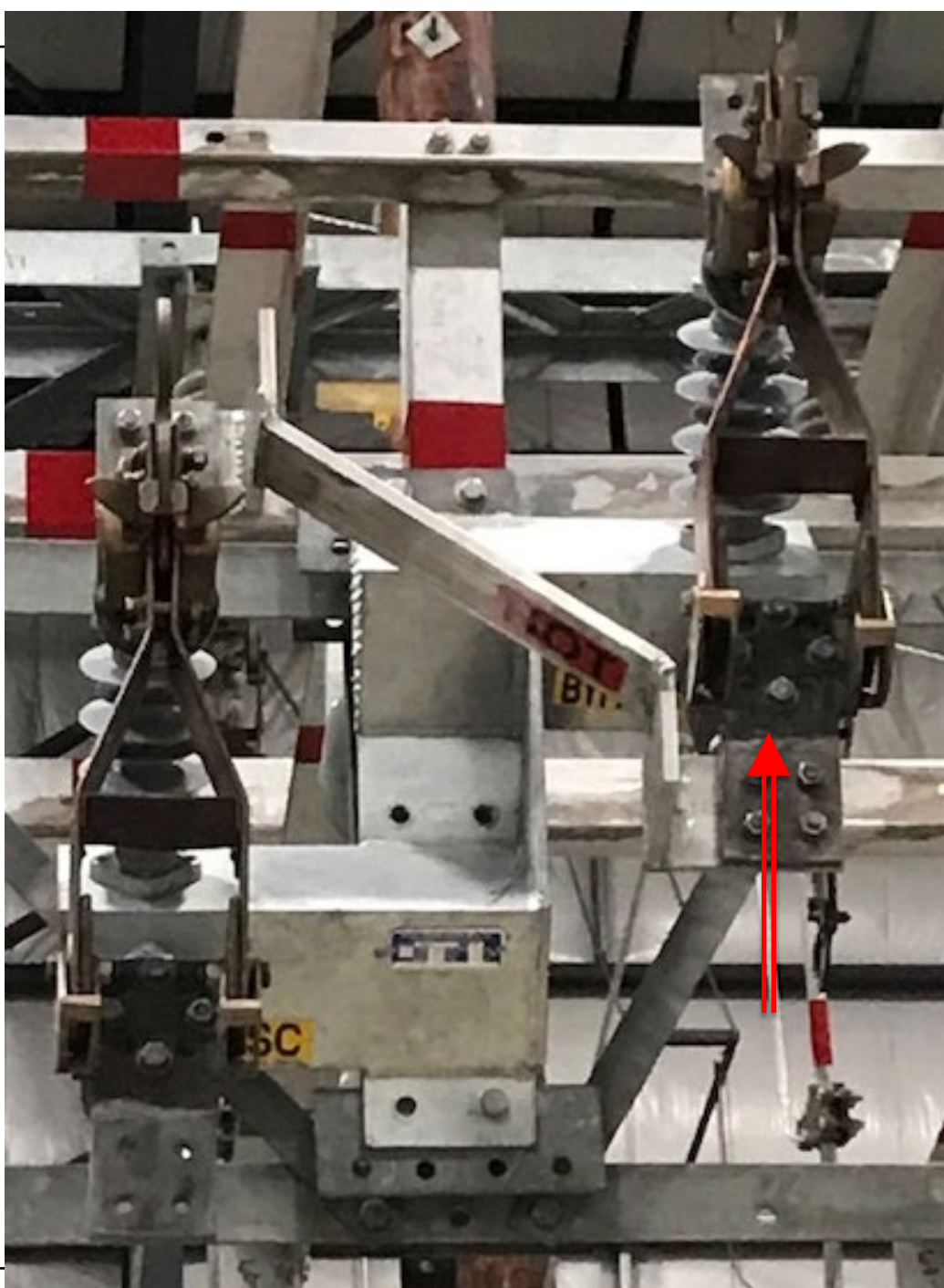
12 and 34kV Royal Bypass/Disconnect Switches-Signage

- Mainly installed on Transformer LS totalizer breaker applications.
- The addition of three signs will make the switch functions clearer and aid in hazard recognition for those working in proximity.
- With care, the signs can be placed while the equipment remains in service.



Also, a Re-design

- The disconnect switch is offset lower than the bypass.
- This creates a visible difference meant to minimize switching errors as well as reduce safety hazards on equipment under clearance.
- The switches are on a common frame and mounted as one unit.

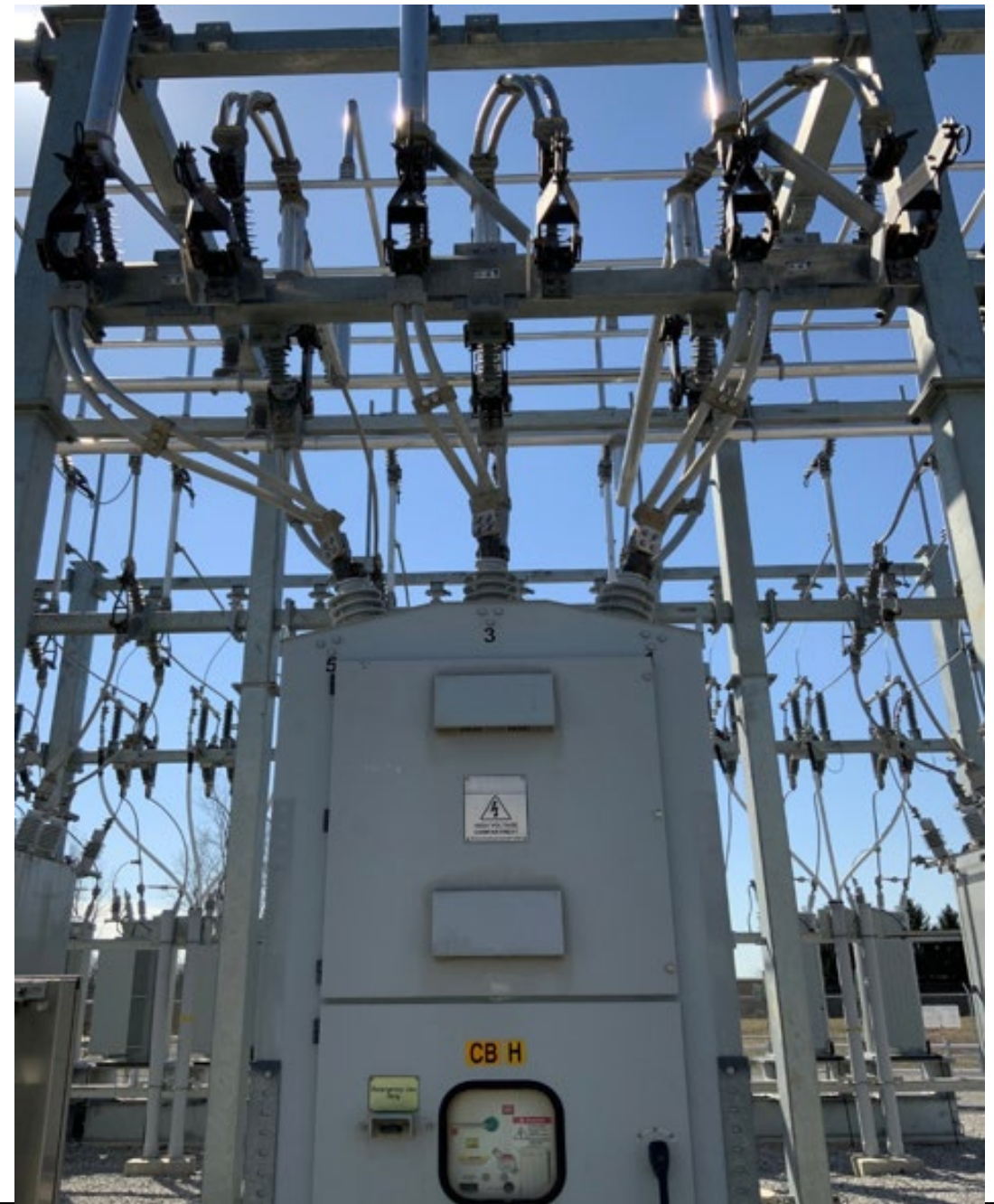


To Sum Up

- Labeling kits were provided for the old switch design in the summer of 2019. However, incomplete records may have inadvertently left off switch units so some may be missed.
- The offset switch design came out in fall of 2019 and was probably first used in construction in 2020(?). The offset switch design was supposed to have the labels affixed at the factory.
- However, due to delays in ordering the new design, and delays in field construction, there may be old units that have been in-serviced recently. Thus, this topic is still relevant.

A Recent Switching Error

- This occurred in AEP East.
- Switching on 6/23/21 requested the breaker disconnects to be closed and the bypass switches to be checked.
- This step was reported complete on that date.



The Discovery-A Questioning Attitude!!



- Found on 3/15/22 during routine station inspection.
- CB disconnects were open and the bypass switches were closed.
- Corrected the same day after discussion with dispatch.

Thoughts

- Switch was an old style without any offset between disconnect and bypass. Further, there were no labels in place.
- A relatively new servicer made the discovery (a fresh perspective).
- Complacency-the situation existed for nine months!
- Distraction-servicer making the error was helping to train a new dispatcher and may have lost focus.
- The breaker CTs fed a set of Bitronics ammeters. They would have read zero during the error period.

Follow-Up

- The area found three other stations with these switches. They weren't labeled either.
- Currently being rectified.
- Others??
- We have had another recent switching error involving this same switch design. It is currently being investigated.

Contact Info

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RELIABILITY FIRST

NERC Lessons Learned

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Principle Analyst, Operational Analysis & Awareness

ReliabilityFirst



Agenda

- **What are Lessons Learned for?**
- **Example 1: Human error leads to evacuation of primary control room**
- **Example 2: Unmanned forklift contact with energized bus**
- **Where can you find written Lessons Learned?**
- **How do I get more information about a specific Lesson Learned?**
- **How can I submit a Lesson Learned?**



HUMAN ERROR LEADS TO EVACUATION OF PRIMARY CONTROL ROOM



Problem Statement

Primary Interest Groups

- **Balancing Authorities (BAs)**
- **Transmission Operators (TOPs)**
- **Generation Operators (GOPs)**

Problem – Maintenance worker failed to follow hot work procedures; control center had to be evacuated



Event Details

- Fire occurred in the powerhouse adjacent to control center; extensive smoke required evacuation
- Smoke traveled up a utility tunnel and elevator, reaching the energy control center
- Primary control center was partially evacuated
 - Operators utilized the back-up control center
- Once relief crew reached the backup center, the system operators at the primary control center were able to leave their posts and report to the back-up control center



Cause of Event

- **Investigation determined that the maintenance workers incorrectly assessed the tank**
 - Workers were tasked with removing a potable water tank
 - A spark from a torch ignited the plastic lining of the tank
 - Prior to the removal, the workers viewed the side of the tank which had no lining or combustible materials
 - Fire occurred in the center of the tank which had flammable lining
- **Workers did not fully inspect the area for combustible materials**
 - Thus, a fire watch was not established and a hot work permit was not issued



Corrective Actions

- **All personnel have been retrained on the hot work permit system**
- **Specific measures will be implemented to prevent smoke from travelling to the control center**
 - Fire stops
 - Ventilation changes



Lessons Learned

- **Workers should evaluate work conditions before beginning any maintenance activities and follow established hot work safety guidelines**
- **Periodic training on hot work procedures should be given to all maintenance employees**
- **Control center ventilation equipment and fire stops should be evaluated regularly**
 - This will ensure that proper precautions have been taken to ensure that smoke from internal/external fires cannot reach the control center
- **When control centers are not separate i.e., they are adjacent to other active facilities, consideration should be given to the impact of these facilities on control centers**



UNMANNED FORKLIFT CONTACT WITH ENERGIZED BUS



Problem Statement

➤ **Primary Interest Groups**

- Transmission Owner (TO)
- Transmission Operator (TOP)

Problem – unmanned forklift came into contact with energized bus

- **Caused breakers connected to a 345-kV bus to open**
- **Transfer trip occurred on 115-kV and 2-345-kV lines**
- **Electrical service to a coal mine was interrupted**



Event Details

- **Unmanned forklift made contact with 345-kV bus, causing a fault and clearing the bus**
- **Forklift rose due to faulty controls and/or by drift elicited by an electromagnetic field of the bus**
- **115-kV & 2-345-kV lines were tripped**
- **Line servicing coal mine was de-energized**
- **Mine personnel were not notified of the work taking place**
 - No preparations were made for a potential outage
- **All lines were returned to service**
 - Forklift was removed
 - Faulted bus was confirmed to be suitable for re-energization and continued use
- **No injuries, generation outages or other customer service outages occurred as a result of the event**



Corrective Actions (Pt. 1)

- **At the end of a shift, all equipment shall be moved to a designated parking area away from energized or potentially energized equipment**
- **At the end of a shift, equipment should be checked to make sure it is not running and all keys to equipment shall be removed and locked in a secure place**
- **When heavy equipment is not in use, it will be turned off with the keys removed and locked in a secure place**
- **Machines used in tight space working environments may be left in place at the end of the shift**
 - Keys shall be removed and secured in a safe place



Corrective Actions (Pt. 2)

- **Job site shall be inspected at the end of the shift to check equipment**
 - Ensure that equipment is not running
 - Ensure that keys have been removed and locked in designated area
 - Check fencing and gates to ensure that the site is secure
- **Perform a Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) for the switchyard and other critical locations to identify hazards and how to mitigate them**
 - Communicate with all possible affected entities to inform them when work is being performed that might impact them
 - Include Power System Operators & Generator owners/Operators



Lesson Learned (Pt. 1)

- **Construction equipment in a switchyard should never be left running unmanned**
 - Keys to the equipment should always be removed and stored in a secure area
- **Construction work sites in energized switchyards shall be inspected at the beginning of and end of each shift**
 - Ensure all barriers are identified and in place for potential hazards of accidental electrical contact of construction equipment



Lesson Learned (Pt. 2)

- **All heavy equipment (including forklifts) should be moved to a designated parking area away from energized or potentially energized equipment when not in use**
 - If the equipment cannot be moved, it should be put into a lockdown position and inspected to ensure it could not make contact with other equipment in the substation
- **Before starting work in the switchyards, notify and coordinate with all possible affected entities**



Where to find Lessons Learned

- **Lessons Learned can be found on the NERC website at the following link:**

<https://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/Lessons-Learned.aspx>



To get additional information

- **Reach out to Region EA contact**
- **Contacts at ReliabilityFirst:**
 - Dwayne Fewless
 - Danielle Daugherty
 - Kellen Phillips
 - Bill Crossland
- **Send questions**
 - Contact will be made with entity
 - Either questions will be answered, or a meeting will be set up for discussion



To Submit a Lesson Learned

- **Contact RF EA**
- **Identify Lesson Learned**
- **Work with RF EA to create Lesson Learned**
- **Submit Lesson Learned**
 - You will have the option to either be on the review team or look over the submission after review team is complete



Questions & Answers

Forward Together  ReliabilityFirst