IUEC INCIDENT SUMMARY

CLOSE CALL, INJURY

"CLOSE CALL"

April 28th 2023---IUEC Safety Stand Down Day

Description of Incident

Control Type: Electric
Machine Type: Gearless
Speed: 350 FPM
Capacity: 4000 LBS
Rise: 9 Stop
Hoistway Configuration: 6 Car Bank

- Multiple crews were modernizing two elevators in a group of six.
- At the end of the day, following company LOTO procedures, the personal locks were removed from the main line disconnect and a company lock was put on in place of the personal locks.
- The following day, one of the units whose controller was removed had the main line wires left hanging over the duct work. The disconnect was mistakenly energized causing the wires to short out, tripping the main circuit breaker and removing power from all elevators.

- Current Status:
  - Power was restored to the units that were in service. No injuries occurred and there were no entrapments or damage to any of the elevator equipment. The wires were taped off and separated.
  - Personal locks were installed and left on overnight.
  - The company is reviewing their LOTO safety policy.

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Recommendations and Lessons Learned

- Always follow the company safety policy
- Always perform a JHA/JSA as per company policy

- Possible Root Causes:
  - The wires should have been pulled pack and removed from the load side of the disconnect.
  - Lack of communication.

- Field Employees' Safety Handbook
  - Section 7.0 Lockout Tagout
  - 7.1 Procedures

(a) Understand the equipment; be aware of its potential hazards. If it is not understood, or if you have a question, contact your Superintendent/Manager immediately before proceeding.

(b) Where the accidental starting of the equipment would create a hazard – deactivate mainline disconnect switch to shut off the power. **CAUTION:** Do not stand directly in front of the mainline disconnect when operating **(stand off to the side of the disconnect)**. Each employee shall apply to the disconnect switch a personal lock and a "Do Not Start" tag with the employee's name.

(c) Some components (capacitors, MG sets, etc.) often store residual energy, even though power is shut off. The stored energy can result in electrical shock or unintended movement of equipment. Before working on equipment with these components, discharge the stored energy to ground.

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