

Incident Summary #II-821568-2019 (#*11265) (FINAL)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION	Incident Date	March 1, 2019	
	Location	Panorama, BC	
	Regulated industry sector	Electrical - Low voltage electrical system (30V to 750V)	
	Impact	Qty injuries	0
		Injury description	An operating handle on a disconnect switch failed to properly operate, resulting in an inability to energize a system.
		Injury rating	None
	Damage	Damage description	The switch was rendered inoperable and needed to be replaced.
		Damage rating	Minor
Incident rating	Minor		
Incident overview	When operating a 480Volt, 600Amp rated fused switch for a ski lift during testing, a cam mechanically connected to the operating handle broke. The switch was no longer usable to energize or de-energize the system.		
INVESTIGATION CONCLUSIONS	Site, system and components	A main switch, integral to an approved set of switchgear, was designed to energize and de-energize all branch circuits and bussing within the switchgear. The switch had a design lifetime of 2000 cycles. The switch was operated each morning during start-up of lift operations.	
	Failure scenario(s)	The switch has been operated on a daily basis during ski season for approximately 20 seasons. The switch had reached the end of its operational lifetime, and failed when it was no longer mechanically able to operate.	
	Facts and evidence	Lifetime operations information provided by manufacturer. Approximation of actual lifetime operations from FSR named on operating permit.	
	Causes and contributing factors	The switch was operated beyond its rated lifetime. As the movable parts within aged and wore with continued use, a part within finally failed rendering the switch inoperable.	