

Swedish Neutral

Premium Power Protection

Press Release April 2016

Swedish protection technology solves bushfire problems with power lines in Australia

After the devastating bushfires on "Black Saturday" 9th February 2009, which killed over 170 people near Melbourne, the Victorian Government started a Royal Commission to investigate the cause and find possible solutions to prevent such catastrophic accidents in the future.

The first finding of the Bushfire Taskforce was that many of the fires are actually started by power lines. Moreover, existing protection was far too insensitive and slow to prevent fires to be started by typical line faults like line fracture or frequent interference with nearby trees during summer storms.

Intensive research and testing of different line protection schemes during the following years have resulted in the selection of Swedish Neutral's Ground Fault Neutralizer to be installed in the most fire prone areas of Victoria. A first roll out of four GFN systems will be taken into operation before the next bushfire season.

The GFN, originally developed to protect critical industry grids, eliminates fault current and voltage injection into the fault site in less than 60msec which is a world record. Detection sensitivity is better than 25kOhm, satisfying even the new demanding detection requirements in Victoria.

But the real magic of the GFN is that this action takes place without the need for immediate interruption of power supplies. There is time to focus on the next important question - where exactly is the fault? A unique GFN pilot signal helps the operator to pin point the actual fault location and alert line teams for repair - before the faulty section is disconnected.

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