

# NATF Redacted Operating Experience Report

## Circuit Breaker Tips Over during Disassembly

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## Topic

Circuit Breaker Tips Over during Disassembly

## Description

When removing a 1960's vintage circuit breaker from inside a tight area in a substation, it is often necessary to cut the breaker apart and remove it piece by piece. In this instance, the tank with the control cabinet attached was cut off, and the weight of the control cabinet pulled the tank over. There were no injuries from this incident, and no damage was done to any other equipment.



## Lessons Learned

Mitigation techniques that could have been used:

1. Remove the control cabinet first, then cut the rest of the circuit breaker apart.
2. Block underneath the control cabinet to prevent it from tipping over.

## Actions Taken

1. This incident was reported as a near miss and shared internally with all transmission employees.
2. Implemented steps to review tasks associated with performing this job (before starting work) to ensure safety of personnel and reduce risk of damage.

## Extent of Condition

Being aware of how demolition activities may impact the integrity of structures is a widely applicable. Having a plan in place to avoid weight imbalances or prevent pieces from moving is an important step in managing the risk.