

29th April 2016

H&S ALERT



No. 126 | Electric Safety - Safeguards

Electrical Safety – Management of Risk

Electricity is a hazard that has to be *managed* in order to *avoid* DANGER and INJURY.

The way that electrical hazards are managed in Welsh Water relies on the FOUR PRINCIPLES of Electrical Safety:

Electrical equipment must be...

1. **CONSTRUCTED** properly, and...
2. **MAINTAINED** in a safe condition.

All work on electrical equipment must be planned effectively and the necessary management arrangements in place e.g. COI, PTW and...

3. **Carried out SAFELY** by **COMPETENT** persons...
4. **...using appropriate TOOLS** and **EQUIPMENT**



In short, electrical safety relies on the equipment; on the people who work on the equipment and on the way the work is planned and then carried out.

Purpose of this H&S Alert

An incident has occurred at one of our sites and two people have been injured. It is far too soon to understand what has gone wrong but something **DID** go wrong. Investigations are underway with the sole purpose of *learning lessons* and *preventing reoccurrence* of a similar event.

The lessons learnt may point to improvements in the CONSTRUCTION or MAINTENANCE of equipment, however, these are potentially long-term improvements. The purpose of this H&S Alert is to remind electrical practitioners and people responsible for people directly working on electrical equipment, including contractors, that a large part of electrical safety relies on people: on their *behaviours*, on the way they work (their *methods*), on the *procedures* they follow and on the *tools* and *equipment* they use.

Actions

- Ensure all risks have been assessed and that a safe system of work has been established for the task in hand... RAMS.
- Work **SAFELY** at ALL times – do not deviate from the agreed method of work, with particular focus on isolated equipment under permit during testing.
- Follow the electrical procedure (HSP403) – Permits to Work (LV) and Certificates of Isolation are used to communicate essential safety information to the person carrying out the work. Residual risks must be *clearly* communicated and dangers pointed out.
- Use appropriate tools and equipment – fused test leads with GS38 probes.



ISSUED TO ALL: Employees | Partners |

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If you are a manager, please ensure that your team members are aware of the content of this alert or where indicated issue to partners. Additional information or guidance required on the content is available from the Health & Safety team.