

Health and Safety Briefing Note

HSBN Number 064: Use of Arc Resistant PPE

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Distribution: Wholesale Waste, Wholesale Water, Retail
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Introduction

An incident occurred on the 9th June where one of our colleagues suffered injury after striking a low voltage electricity cable. He received burns to his hands and forearms from the flash. Thankfully our colleague was not kept in hospital overnight and is now recovering at home.

This incident highlights the dangers of working around electrical power cables and the need to ensure that as well as a safe system of work and permit to dig, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the last line of defence, after other methods of protection have been considered; its importance cannot and should not be underestimated.



Thames Water's minimum standard for PPE which must be worn on Thames Water's sites is: safety helmet, gloves, eye protection, high visibility clothing and safety footwear.

PPE is not optional it is mandatory. PPE is not a personal choice as to when it should be used; it is a company policy and must be complied with. There are no exemptions regardless of length of time of a task.

In light of this and other similar incidents we are enhancing our standards by making it mandatory to wear Arc Resistant Gloves (in addition to the Arc Resistant trousers and tops) for anyone undertaking streetworks or manually breaking ground on site when working for or on behalf of Thames Water.

PowerFlex® 80-813 - available from the TW PPE catalogue.

Action required:

- Ensure you are familiar with Essential Standard 1 – 'Excavations'
- Ensure your teams are aware of the correct PPE that must be worn, why it is needed, when it is to be used, repaired or replaced and its limitations.
- PPE selected should be appropriate to the risk (refer to the description in the PPE catalogue).
- Ensure that the item selected is suitable for the wearer i.e. that it can be adjusted to fit the wearer.
- When issuing PPE, record the issue of PPE to an individual on the PPE Issue Form (SHE 14) and keep a record of it.

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Briefing to all employees

Our activities both on and off site at times can bring us into contact with many hazards which if not managed could result in injuries. Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) is the last line of defence, after other methods of protection have been considered, it is important that users wear it all the time they are exposed to the risk. There are no exemptions for those jobs which take 'just a few minutes'.

We have minimum standards for PPE that everyone working for or on our behalf must follow this includes safety helmets, glasses, eye protection, high visibility clothing and safety footwear.

We are enhancing these standards by making it mandatory to wear Arc resistant gloves alongside trousers and tops for anyone undertaking streetworks or manually breaking ground on site.

Your manager will ensure that PPE is provided in accordance with any relevant risk assessment guidelines.

You must ensure that:

- The correct PPE is worn at all times.
- You are adequately trained in its safe use.
- It is properly maintained and any defects are reported.
- It is returned to its proper storage after use.

Make sure you have the right PPE for the job and escalate to your manager if you don't.

We the undersigned have been made aware of the contents of this briefing. If we are unable to carry out the work safely, we agree that we must immediately stop work and inform our manager/supervisor.

Date	Name	Signature	
Manager/supervisor's signature:		Date:	

Please continue on another copy for additional employees