

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

The Importance of Prove Test Prove

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

29th January 2018

INCIDENT DETAIL :

During January, 3.3kV equipment in the Benmore sluice chamber was scheduled for maintenance. As part of issuer applied safety measures for the permit, the 3.3kV disconnecter switch 369 was confirmed to be open by the normal practice of using the visual indicator on the switch operating handle. The switch was then tagged as part of permit issue. The disconnecter switch contacts cannot be observed directly without partial disassembly of the switch cubicle. The permit recipient then opened the switchboard cubicle and used a voltage detector device (VDD) to check that the equipment under permit was in fact de-energised. Unexpectedly, the VDD indicated the 3.3kV connections were still live and presented a significant hazard to the work area.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

Work was stopped immediately and the equipment was left locked, tagged and isolated. Both the operator and site manager were then notified.

The Site Manager notified the Safety & Health Specialist and sought advice from the Electrical Engineer who travelled to site the following morning to assist with the investigation.

During an initial inspection it was observed that the switch mechanism was failing to engage the disconnecter resulting in the circuit to remain live despite the switch colour indicating it was open/isolated.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

This near miss has yet again reiterated the importance of Prove Test Prove before undertaking any electrical work.

An assumption of isolation without testing in this situation could have resulted in a fatality.

Further analysis of the switch mechanism is to be undertaken and the root cause outlined in the finalised ICAM investigation.

PHOTO:



The Corporate Safety and Health Team are currently working on systems to support the above learnings. If interested in viewing the full investigation report for this incident, it can be found in:

Awaiting finalised ICAM results – Any queries, contact Holly Mason, Safety & Health Specialist



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