

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

Out of Test Fire Extinguishers

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

Friday 23rd February 2018

INCIDENT DETAIL :

During February at Mt Mercer Wind Farm Site Office, routine six-monthly inspections were being conducted on the fire extinguishers. It was during this check that it was identified some of the extinguishers were out of their five-year life cycle and had to be either pressure tested or replaced.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

The probability of the fire extinguisher not working due to it being out of pressure test date would be rare.

The weighing of the fire extinguisher is the crucial test to determine if it is correctly charged. The gross weight must be within 5 % of the contents weight in all fire extinguisher types. In this case, this test had occurred.

It is recommended to ensure the turbine fire extinguisher inspection schedule check sheet for all sites includes all items listed in accordance to relevant local Australian Standard AS 1851 or New Zealand NZS 4503:2005.

This is a timely reminder that Attention to detail during these inspections must be paramount.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

This triggered the site to assess all the extinguishers in the wind turbines (managed by the OEM).

When visiting a turbine it was found that one of the extinguishers in the base was date stamped November 2012 and was therefore outside of its five-year life.

This extinguisher was last tagged in January 2018 which suggests the date stamp on the tank was not being checked during servicing.

Subsequently all fire extinguishers have now been checked and all have had pressure tests completed. An investigation is underway.

PHOTO:



Photo 1 Showing date of manufacture

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:

Safety Manager Id Number is **860294**. If you do not have access to Safety Manager contact a member of Meridian's CSH Team.



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