

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

Open Brake Pit Access – Near Miss

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

August 1st 2018

INCIDENT DETAIL :

Ohau A Unit 7 is out of service for a major overhaul and as part of the work, access is required from inside the stator enclosure to the lower brake pit via a permanent ladder system.

The access was open to manually guide the headcover into the turbine pit on this day.

A contractor noticed that a cardboard sheet had been dislodged from the above stator cooler penetration and had inadvertently covered the open access hole. The contractor stopped another worker from walking onto the cardboard and potentially through the access hole.

Potential fall height 1-1.5m into 45degree angled concrete access way.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

The cardboard sheet was removed and the access hatch cover replaced. All other cardboard sheets were removed from the remaining stator cooler enclosures.

The Job Risk Analysis (JRA) and work methodology was updated to reflect the requirement to close this off immediately after completion of work in the brake pit.

Follow up with all staff and contractors on site regarding safe use of access ways.

Notification to Site Manager and Safety Specialist.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

Access ways must be covered over at the completion of work.

Loose material which could become dislodged should not be used above open access ways.

Barrier options (see photos below) currently being investigated include self-closing gates either side of these access ways inside the stator enclosure and a retractable caution tape on entry point into the enclosure.



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:

Safety Manager Event ID: 929362

Contact: Holly Mason, Safety & Health Specialist Hydro



meridian