

FYI — METERING

Vector Metering

05 November 2019

Electric Shock & ECGs

All FSPs—All Regions

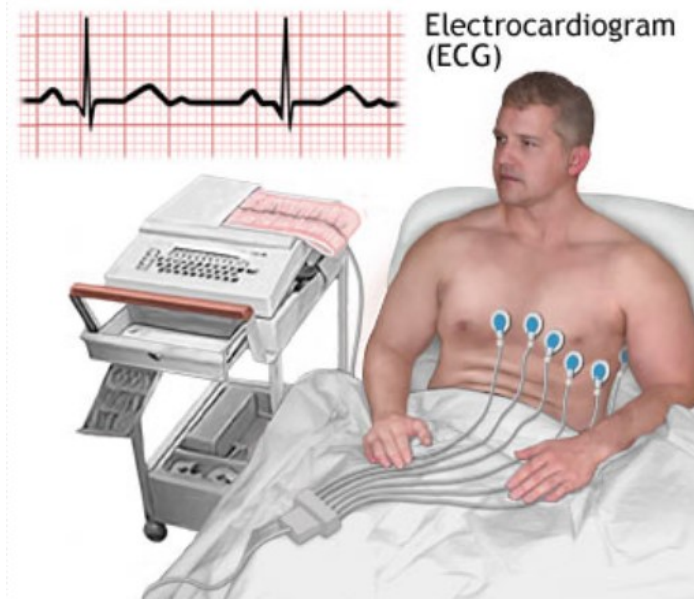
What is it?

- An electric shock occurs when a person comes into contact with an electrical energy source

What are the consequences?

- Exposure to electrical energy may result in no injury at all or it may result in serious injury/illness or death (electrocution)
- Some effects of an electric shock can be delayed—including the shock of being shocked
 - ⇒ Burns are the most common injury from electric shock—and these burns can be internal
 - ⇒ Although low voltage electricity does not normally cause significant injuries to humans, it can be very different if the current passes through the chest: Even a small AC current can cause ventricular fibrillation which can be fatal if not treated immediately
 - ⇒ Any current above 200mA is strong enough to literally stop the heart muscles from moving
- An ECG is the most common test for heart conditions
- **Vector Metering urges any person who has come into contact with an electrical energy source to obtain precautionary medical treatment and an ECG as soon as possible**
- An ECG is classed as medical treatment and under the Bill of Rights Act 1990 no one in New Zealand can be forced to undergo medical treatment against their will

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Remember:

- If you come into contact with an electrical energy source, we advise you to seek an ECG as soon as possible
- Initial responders to an electric shock incident need to be careful not to become a second victim—**Disconnect the power supply first**

For further information please contact AMS AMS.HSE@amsco.co.nz

Please circulate by COB 8th November 2019

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Vector Advanced Metering Services

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Useful Websites:

- <https://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/your-heart/heart-tests>
- <https://www.healthnavigator.org.nz/health-a-z/e/electrocardiograph-ecg/>
- https://www.emedicinehealth.com/electric_shock/article_em.htm#what_are_the_symptoms_of_electric_shock
- <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/electric-shock>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2658458/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrical_injury
- <https://www.healthguidance.org/entry/12834/1/the-effects-of-electric-shock-on-the-body.html>

