

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

Oily Rag Amnesty

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

26 September 2014

INCIDENT DETAIL :

A contractor to Meridian Energy was tasked to carry out scheduled work in WWD510 on Friday 26th September 2014.

During the work it was observed that a large number of oily rags had been used to soak up old oil around the hydraulic station and then left in situ. There had been no oil leaks reported or identified. There has been a report from the same contractor that the hubs have had oil leaks which have not been reported or identified as a hazard.

This was identified by the contractor as a serious fire hazard.

Meridian have identified that this is not only a serious fire hazard but also:

- A slip hazard
- A risk of hydraulic pressure injection injury
- Mechanical failure of the turbine
- Environment Issue if oil is not contained due to a large leak
- A Health and Hygiene risk

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

Meridian have carried out an investigation which resulted in an 'Oily Rag Amnesty'

It is requested that all Meridian technicians and all contract technicians who have worked on our turbines in the past year to come forward and inform the Asset Managers where they have left rags in the turbines using the 3 W's principle:

(example 1)

- Where - WWD 510 Hyd Station
- Why - Suspected oil leak high pressure filter
- When - Last Annual Service

(example 2)

- Where - Te Uku 111 Under gear oil pump
- Why - Forgot to clean up/possible leaky pump
- When - Last month some when

The amnesty will last for seven days allowing all reporting and if possible removal of rags to occur under strict anonymity.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

This incident has proved invaluable learning for Meridian. It has allowed us to put an action plan into place to ensure we are working to best safe practices within the Wind Asset Maintenance Team.

This standard of housekeeping is not acceptable, not only in wind turbines but other business such as; working on boats, planes, oil rigs and hydro dams to name a few.

Good housekeeping is a requirement of all Meridian Wind technicians and our contractors as a non negotiable. The reasons are plain to see:

From this combustible material



To this

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:

By Contacting the WAM Leadership team



meridian