

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

A slip resulting in a back sprain whilst carrying a very heavy kit bag over the shoulder up some external stairs

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

Monday 23rd May 2016 10.00

INCIDENT DETAIL :

There was a recent incident at one of our wind farms where a technicians slipped whilst climbing the entrance steps to a turbine. At the time he was carrying a heavy bag of tooling by himself weighing 52 kg over his shoulder. Fortunately his work mate caught him preventing further injury. However he still sustained a strain to his lower back resulting in a LTI and restricted duties. The severity of the injury only became apparent a day and a half later.

This event was not reported at the time and was only reported when the technician did not arrive for work some two days later

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

There are a number of learnings from this investigation that the contributing factors highlighted:

- The importance of manual handling awareness
- Not to be the 'hero' know your limits
- Become more hazard/risk aware
- Report all events no matter how small you think at the time
- Avoid shortcuts if it poses a higher risk
- Take reasonably care of yourself and your colleges
- Consider those who may be effected by your acts or omissions

Recommendations

At the next appropriate opportunity use this learning as a reminder on the importance of how a quality Manual handling risk assessment can prevent injury.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

First aid was not given at the time as the technician appeared ok and was happy to continue working. It was not till a day and a half later the technician found the true extent of his injury's by not being able to put his socks on in the morning.

As a direct result of this incident the technician was lucky to come away with only a minor injury. A high level of training had occurred and guidelines were in place but not followed. A failure to identify the hazards involved with the job, a secondary goal of trying to keep the bags down to a minimum to avoid a second crane lift also contributed. Muddy slippery conditions were present and not considered, and a single lift was performed when a two man lift would have been more appropriate.

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 Id Number. 623257 This investigation is still underway if you do not have access to Safety manager contact a member of Meridian's CSH team.



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