

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

Wind Turbine Safety Rules - Lock out and Tag out (LOTO) mandatory requirement

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

10th July 2018

INCIDENT DETAIL :

On both the 10th and 12th July a wind authorised technician failed to open an isolation valve to drain the hydraulic system pressure. Failing to do so on the 10th resulted in another technician being showered in hydraulic oil under pressure as he went to change the valve under full pressure.

On the 12th the same work party went in to change a proportional valve and failed to release the pressure. On this occasion no oil was ejected from the system as there are two non-return/check valves, which held the pressure in the pitch system.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

LOTO requirement is part of our Non-negotiables along with Electrical Safety Regs, SMEI, and the Wind Turbine Safety Rules (WTSR).

All state or words to this effect 'When isolating from external sources of harm isolating devices are used and they shall be immobilised, tagged and where practicable locked. **Tags shall be affixed at all points of isolations as a minimum. (e.g. electrical, hydraulic and mechanical isolations).**

An email went out to the whole WMD team in June 2018 reminded the team to not become complacent around LOTO. Please use this learning as a further reminder of the importance of Lock out and Tag out to all as the fundamental means of protecting persons.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

The work party made safe, came down from the turbine and cleaned up the technician covered in Hydraulic oil in the first event.

The investigation identified that the system had not been isolated or a LOTO tagged as required in the Approved Written Procedure (AWP) LOTO document.

A training gap in the competent technician training was identified that the trainer was teaching to follow the AWP but was not instructing the staff to put a TAG on the spoken valves consistently.

This has further been identified as a wider issue of technicians not applying tags to non-lockable isolations as a minimum.

PHOTO:



Photo of needle valve 222



Example of a LOTO Tag

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 919413.



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