

Stored Energy

What happened?

- Contractors were tasked to clear a strainer for debris, during this process they noticed the leakage rate had increased and therefore stopped work.
- The workplace was barricaded off and the area vacated.
- Job reassessed to see how to approach the blockage.
- During this time the blocked strainer was ejected from the housing directly to the ground, due to pressure build up behind the blockage.
- No-one injured during the incident.

Geothermal

What did we learn?

- Isolation valve failed to seal to a safe level.
- The drain was significantly blocked restricting flow out of the drain, masking actual leakage of the isolation valve.
- The isolation valve had been used 1 month earlier for a similar task without incident which gave the impression that the valve was operational, and the blockage was not severe.

Recommended Actions:

- Update water blasting job plan for potential stored energy behind internal blockages.
- Install an engineered plant brine strainer to reduce the inline strainer blockage issues.



Location of blockage



Ejected strainer