

SAFETY LESSONS LEARNT ALERT

Edgmond Bridge - Electric Shock

Issued: July 2020

IP suffered an electric shock in a Borehole chamber at Edgmond Bridge BSP, CO WT Wolv Groundwater Treatment R&B

Information sharing:

While working in the borehole chamber at Edgmond Bridge the IP (a mechanical apprentice) suffered an electric shock on the right wrist whilst working on the outlet pipework of a sump pump. The IP encountered exposed live ends of a loose 240v cable which contacted his wrist. The IP suffered numbness in their right hand for several days and a sprained feeling in their wrist. Full feeling and movement returned within a week.

The cable was historically connected to a heater and electrically fed from another borehole pump junction box that was last used in 1996. Previously the cable was tied to other cables on the wall but had been undone and moved as part of an ongoing capital scheme.

The cable has been moved prior to the incident but due to the repositioning it was difficult to see amongst other cables and fixings. The cable had remained in a live state when moved and repositioned into the location where months later it caused the electric shock.

Following the incident the cable was traced and disconnected. A full review of all equipment in the two-boreholes at site was undertaken and no further exposed live cables were found.

Key messaging:

- When any exposed electrical cable ends are found, assume all of these are live until they have been electrically tested for dead by a qualified trained electrician
- Always Take 20 to check your working environment every time
- Never assume your working area is hazard free even if other colleagues have been working there

Electricians and multi skilled maintainers:

- When removing any electrically powered equipment, all cable feeds require removing back to an isolation point
- If a cable needs to be left in position during maintenance work, cable ends must be visually identified, made safe and not touchable
- LOTO procedure must be followed when isolating equipment including leaving equipment in a safe condition



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