

Safety and health alert

12/95 Electrician electrocuted installing switch

Incident

An electrician was electrocuted while installing a tilt switch on a pulverising unit in a Kalgoorlie laboratory.

The electrician was replacing a faulty switch in the pulverising unit control box. A flexible power cord connected the unit to a three phase power outlet, and the outlet switch was on.

The electrician touched live terminals on the inside of the open control box door with his arm while replacing the faulty switch, and was electrocuted.

Factors

The electrical supply was not isolated, allowing the electrician to touch live terminals.

Recommendations

Do not work on live electrical machinery, appliances or equipment, where practicable.

Turn off power switches, disconnect power cords and remove fuses from the power switchboard wherever possible.

Follow lock out procedures when working on plant that is turned off but still connected to a power supply.

Carry out hazard identification, assessment and control before beginning work, where work on live equipment is necessary (eg. fault finding).

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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