

# Safety and health alert

## 20/95 Electrical shock from junction box

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### Incident

A worker using a vehicle hoist in a Karratha workshop received an electric shock when his right hand touched an uncovered electrical junction box near the top of the hoist post.

### Factors

- The junction box, intended for domestic use, was not suitable for industrial use.
- The junction box cover was missing, exposing the electrical terminals.

### Recommendations

- Employers and owners must ensure plant and equipment is maintained so that employees are not exposed to hazards.
- Electrical junction boxes must be suitable for their intended use. They must be totally enclosed and the lid secured with screws.
- Employers are strongly encouraged to have a licensed electrician install Residual Current Devices [RCDs] in appropriate electrical circuits.

**During the first six months of 1995, three workers were electrocuted in Western Australia. Numerous electric shocks, such as the above incident, have been reported.**

**All persons working around electricity are urged to continually assess their working environment and work methods.**

### Further Information

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

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