

Safety, Health and Wellbeing



SAFETY ALERT No. 144 Mild Electric Shock Whilst Working on Metallic Pipes

Background

On 17 January 2019, a contractor received a mild electric shock whilst transferring a water service from an old main to a new main as part of the water main replacement contract at Kensington Road, Bolwarra. Work ceased, worker was taken for medical attention, Ausgrid called to investigate fault, and SafeWork notified. Fortunately the worker was released from hospital with no injuries sustained.

This incident highlights the importance of following the Fatal Risk Standards and associated Safe Work Practices including the use of a Plumb Guard, Bridging Straps and electrically rated gloves and boots when undertaking any works on metallic water services.

Control Measures

ALWAYS ensure electrical safety procedures are followed in the correct sequence if working on metallic pipe and fittings:

1. Inspect insulating electrical gloves, bridging plates, leads and plumb guard prior to use.
2. Ensure that insulating electrical safety gloves are worn at all times whilst working on metallic water pipes and fittings.
3. Ensure that pipe and fittings are adequately cleaned. Fit the electrical bridging kits to ensure a direct electrical contact between the pipe and the bridging plates. Secure each bridging plate with the ratchet straps.
4. Connect the plumb guard and monitor the unit.
 - **IMPORTANT** If any electrical current is observed at any time during the job, cease work and remove all employees from the job site and section off the area from the public. Contact your supervisor and the relevant electrical authority. Do not carry out any work on the site until clearance has been given by the electrical authority.



Gloves, Plumb Guard and Bridging Straps in Place

At Hunter Water we are committed to a continuous improvement culture where no one is injured as a result of their work.

Issued by: WHS Manager 0409043205
Date: 18 January 2019