

SAFETY ALERT



INCIDENT ALERT – Cutting of a LIVE Cable.

BACKGROUND:

While conducting demolition works in a live environment on a Sydney Construction project, a second-year apprentice inadvertently cut a live cable. The apprentice was tasked with removing cables that were isolated and tested by the supervising tradesperson. During this process the apprentice misidentified the wrong cable and incorrectly an existing live tail in the ceiling – and cut that cable causing the circuit to trip.

OUTCOMES/ACTIONS:

1. Due to the High-Risk nature of demolition work in a live environment a SWMS and HSE Risk Assessment was conducted. The risk of working near or around live services was identified, however the control of using licenced electricians only for removal works was not identified or implemented.
2. Testing, Isolating, Cutting and Removing of cabling is High Risk Work and therefore should be undertaken by a licenced **tradesperson only. APPRENTICES MUST NEVER CUT CABLES IN A LIVE DEMOLITION ENVIRONMENT.**
3. Always test before you touch cabling in a live environment and follow Stars testing procedures set out in SG-SWMS-8F-001 Electrical Low Voltage Isolation and SG-SWMS-8F-002- Testing for de-energised.
4. Never cut or remove a cable when conducting works in a demolition zone unless you have clear visual confirmation of the dead tested end.
5. Always remember never to undertake works that you feel are outside of your skill set or the risk is too high.

**ALWAYS TEST
BEFORE YOU
TOUCH!**

**IF YOU DON'T
KNOW -
DON'T CUT!**

**IF YOU ARE
NOT SURE -
DON'T CUT!**

**IF YOU
HAVEN'T
TESTED -
DON'T CUT!**

For further information on this alert please contact James Newman on 9708 7551

PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	DATE ISSUED	ALERT NUMBER
James Newman	Ryan Davey	6/02/2024	SA02- 24

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ALERT IS TO INFORM ALL EMPLOYEES & SUBCONTRACTORS OF SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

PLEASE TOOLBOX YOUR EMPLOYEES, APPRENTICES AND SUBCONTRACTORS
ON THIS ALERT

SAFETY ALERT

I have read and understood the content of this Safety Alert

Company Name	Employee Name	Signature

PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	DATE ISSUED	ALERT NUMBER
James Newman	Ryan Davey	7/04/2023	SA05- 23

THE PURPOSE OF THIS ALERT IS TO INFORM ALL EMPLOYEES & SUBCONTRACTORS OF SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION