

# Lessons Learnt – LL1189

Title: Incorrect removal of recipient earth



be mindful  
be present  
be safe

Incident	Description		
<b>Event Date:</b> 21/09/2020	<b>Time:</b> 11:15am	<b>Location:</b> Hamilton Substation (68B Ruakura Rd)	<b>NP Ref:</b> INV # 6678 Maximo #128021 (Transpower)
<b>What Happened:</b>	<p>An onsite assessment identified that a Northpower employee failed to follow the safe working practice of removing a portable earth in the correct order.</p> <p>The Person Involved (PI) incorrectly removed the tail-clamp from the jug-handle before confirming that his co-worker removed the head-clamp from the overhead conductor first.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>		



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<b>Why it Happened:</b>	<p>There was a breakdown in the communication process onsite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Supervisors had set up the earth in a temporary location ready to be put up; this was to allow the earth to be connected to the circuit several meters out on the line. They however failed to formally communicate why it was set up this way to the rest of the work party.</li><li>As a result, the PI removed the earth from the set up position and attached the portable earth in an unintended location.</li></ul> <p>As a consequence of installing the portable earth in the unintended location for the work as planned on the particular day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The workers rushed to reposition the portable earth to the required temporary earth location;</li><li>Failed to coordinate the correct sequence or method for removal of portable earth.</li></ul>	
<b>The important things you should remember about this:</b>	<p>In this particular event the following should be taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All other safety measures were in place, i.e. Permit area in place, and lines were proven to be de-energised with issuer earths in place.</li><li>The actual risk of exposure was <b>LOW</b>.</li></ul> <p>However, should the safety measures have not been in place, the exposure to live electricity could have been <b>MORE SEVERE</b>.</p>	
<b>What you must do in the future.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is recommended that on complex outages with multiple crews and permits on the same site, that all <b>recipient earth safety measures</b> be documented and recorded on an earthing plan prior to the application of the temporary earths.</li><li>All work party member must be informed and acknowledge that they understand the earthing plan requirements before commencement of work.</li><li>Follow safe work methods for the installation and removal of portable earth equipment.</li></ul>	
<b>SM-EI Reference / Hazard Register ID:</b>	SM-EI 3.602 (j)	When applying a portable earth, it shall be connected to earth before it is applied to the equipment and shall be removed from the equipment before it is disconnected from earth.
	Portable Earthing Procedure (available in <a href="#">SharePoint</a> )	
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Michael Busch – HSQE Advisor (Transmission) - +64 21 948 571	