

Date of Incident: 17th February 2021

NEAR MISS – Personnel Injury

What Happened?

A Contractor undertaking Pest Control around an Emergency Accommodation property at Mt Maunganui stepped onto an old discarded roofing nail. The nail penetrated his boot and pierced his foot.

Root Cause

The nail was left on the lawn area. We suspect this occurred during a roof nail replacement project in 2014. It appears that the nails were thrown from the roof onto the lawn and then picked up afterwards. This resulted in some nails not being seen in the lawn and therefore not being removed.

The contractor was unable to see the nail(s) buried in the lawn and has consequently stepped on it, penetrating the sole of his boot and piercing his foot. This required him to visit a Doctor for a tetanus injection. Further infection and pain resulted in the contractor requiring extended time away from work.



Learnings

Substations are busy work sites with multiple trades visiting and working on site. All staff visiting these sites shall ensure that they carry out a thorough site assessment including checking the grounds for discarded materials that could pose a threat or hazard.

It is the responsibility of all contractors to clear away all site waste during and following completion of their work. Ensure all small materials are discarded into a receptacle and not discarded onto the ground. A final inspection should always include scanning the ground around the work site to ensure all project material have been removed.

It is also the responsibility of all visitors to site to pick up any discarded materials found on site. If the materials are too large to remove, they should bring them to the attention of the Project Team on site or escalate it to the Project Manager or Transpower.

For more information, please contact:

Chris Humble
Contract Manager
chris.humble@wsp.com
+64 27 4367360