



# Safety Bulletin

**To:** All Operational staff and Service partners  
**Issued by:** Health, Safety and Training  
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## Stay safe in substations and compounds and avoid a slip, trip or fall' – Cable trench and drain covers

In June one of our colleagues was walking round the perimeter fence of an outdoor compound at a primary substation when the drain cover they stood on gave way. The fall resulted in cuts to the lower leg but thankfully no serious injuries.

The cover looked to be secure but dislodged as it was stood on due to the plastic frame being broken causing the cover to be unsecure.

Pictures of the misaligned cover after the fall and the broken cover frame can be seen on the enclosed pictures.



### Reminders

Trench and drain covers are present across our operational sites, both outside and within substation buildings.

The covers are predominantly made of reinforced concrete, metal, standard or marine grade plywood, or GRP construction. Structural deterioration of the covers is often on the underside and as such a visible inspection is not an adequate assessment as to the condition of the covers.



Operational colleagues are therefore reminded that, in line with our previous guidelines:

- Risk assess routes within the site to ensure access and egress avoids stepping on covers where possible.
- Ensure you are wearing the correct PPE and footwear.
- Keep you and your colleagues safe, if you remove covers as part of your work ensure they are properly refitted once the work is complete.
- We continue to rectify any issues reported with covers. We are particularly interested in identifying outdoor sites fitted with plywood trench covers. If plywood covers, located in these sites are encountered, they should be reported using the EcoOnline system. All missing or misaligned covers that present a trip or falling hazard, covers in poor condition or not secure for any reason should also be reported in the same manner.