

# SAFETY ALERT 24-01

- a. Construction site hazards
- b. Plants with sap cause irritation

16 January 2024

## MEMO TO ALL EMPLOYEES

### Incidents/Issues:

Two lines staff have been hurt in the past week doing very routine tasks, and from unusual sources.

#### 1. Faultman falls through floor on construction site

While attending a service isolation job at a house undergoing renovations, a faultman fell through a hole in the floor in what had appeared to be concrete but was in fact a section of grey foam below the meter. The builder failed to advise him of the hazard. He received bruising to his back, arm, and leg, and required time off work to recover.

#### **Lesson learned:**

*When entering any property, it is advisable to ask the occupier/workers if there are any hazards to be aware of. Always check carefully for hazards especially on a construction site.*

#### 2. Network inspector and the plant sap

While inspecting an asset surrounded in plants, the inspector broke off the stems of the plants in order to take a photo of the asset number. The sap got onto his hands, which immediately began to sting. After wiping the sap off his hands, he then wiped sweat from his face causing his eyes and face to become inflamed and sting. He required medical treatment.



#### **Lesson learned:**

*These types of plants contain a milky white sap that can be very irritating to the skin, eyes, and mouth (and may be toxic to pets). Use gloves or a tool to cut the plants back wherever possible. If exposed to spurge sap, it is important to decontaminate the exposed area thoroughly.*

## QUERIES

Please direct any queries regarding this memo to either the undersigned or your supervisor. Take care out there!

Name: Marty Fox  
Title: HSW Manager