



SAFETY ALERT!



29 July 2025

Excavator not following Safety Protocols in Switchyard

WHAT HAPPENED?

An excavator was observed operating in an exclusion zone of the project construction site without it being earthed and there was no safety observer overseeing the movements of the mobile plant.

ACTION TAKEN

- Paused the job and briefed field work team on mobile plant protocols in live switchyards.
- Earthed the excavator to the substation grid.
- Educated civil construction crew and all site supervisors of the requirements for operating mobile plant safely in switchyards.
- Follow up toolbox talks completed, reiterating contractor internal procedures.
- Regular on-site reviews conducted.



ROOT CAUSE

- Lack of supervision.
- Ensuring new personnel on site remain in the close supervision of a competent person.
- Absence of clear guidance and boundaries when carrying out tasks in a live switchyard that is reflected in the onsite documentation.

LEARNINGS

- Ensure adequate supervision is assigned to all work within a live switchyard.
- Regular audits and reviews of safety and equipment procedures/processes must be undertaken to ensure all team members remain compliant with current site rules and protocols.
- New employees are more at risk in the substation environment and therefore always require close supervision until competent.

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