



Safety Advice 50-2013 (Dec) (NZ)

Transfield Incident Alert shared courtesy of Transpower and Transfield highlights the critical importance of utilising RCDs with portable electric leads, and also 'wedging' or securing door openings to prevent lead jamming, where it is absolutely necessary to pass leads through such openings.

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Incident Alert



Incident Title:

Electric Shock: 230V: Wilton Substation

Date of Incident:

Tuesday 3 December, 2013

Incident Description and Details:

A Transfield Services employee received an electric shock from an extension lead which was plugged into a 230V socket. The socket was not RCD protected.

The extension lead was run through a doorway and in the process of closing the site at the end of the day the injured employee has closed the door on the lead, jamming the lead into the hinge side of the door, piercing the insulation.

This has resulted in the door the employee was holding onto being livened, the fault path passing through the employee and onto the earthed handrail he was also holding on to.

An investigation is underway.

Immediate Actions

The employee was immediately assessed and fellow employees administered emergency first aid. An ambulance attended at site and he was taken to hospital for evaluation.

In attempting to release his hand from the rail the employee has dislocated his shoulder, which was reset at the hospital before he was discharged the same evening.

While the duration of the shock is yet to be established an ECG conducted at the hospital has shown there is no damage to his heart and no electrical wounds were sustained.

Actions / Recommendations

- Wherever possible the running of extension leads through a closing doorway should be avoided
- Labels highlighting sockets which are not RCD protected have been installed at site and the work party have been brief on this incident
- Portable RCDs are to be used where sockets are not RCD protected

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