

For issue to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (Employees and Contract Partners)

# SHE COMMUNICATION

## Potentially dangerous lighting columns...

### What happened:

Yesterday three of our colleagues escaped injury when the top extension arm of a lighting column they were working adjacent to in the public domain fell to the ground.

Our colleagues were not in contact with the column at the time of the incident, they were however excavating close to the column and it is believed that vibrations through the ground and into the lighting column potentially caused a latent defect to worsen and the column failed. The photographs below show the point of failure.



Chunk of failed concrete from lighting column caused the top extension arm to fall to ground



Top extension arm which fell to the ground

Chunk of failed concrete surrounding installation/fixing tube of top extension arm



**Immediate Learning Points and Actions:**

- a) This SHE Communication should be shared with all parties/ persons who work near lighting columns similar to the type involved in this incident
- b) Our colleagues involved in the work did not notice any obvious damage or degradation of the lighting column before they started work, i.e. there were no obvious signs that the column had a latent defect
- c) A national Dangerous Incident Notification regarding this incident will be issued via the Energy Networks Association NEDeR System to share the knowledge of this incident and the potential risks associated with lighting columns of this type
- d) All persons that work near lighting columns of this type are encouraged to take action and confirm, so far as reasonably practicable, the integrity of any respective lighting columns before starting work
- e) All persons that work near lighting columns of this type are encouraged to employ suitable and sufficient controls to help avoid danger to persons, e.g. pre-work assessments, exclusion zones, protective equipment, etc
- f) All owners of lighting columns of this type are encouraged to consider the details of this incident and take appropriate action to ensure all lighting columns of this type are fit for purpose and as such help to avoid recurrence of this incident, or similar
- g) The information from this incident has been shared with the owner of the lighting column
- h) When completing your work, stop regularly and take 20 seconds to check – what’s around you, that could hurt you? Look after yourself and others.

**At Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – if it's not safe, we don't do it.**

Communication by (✓)	Managers	✓	Notice board	✓	Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks	-	1-month	-	2-months	-
Issued by: Richard Gough – Head of Safety, Health and Environment					Date of issue: 21/02/2019			

