

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

# SHE COMMUNICATION

## Crush Injury - Thumbs Away...

### What happened?

An apprentice and craftsman, who had recently commenced their shift, was tasked with going to the depot to collect a barrow generator and transport it to site to restore supply due to a fault. The barrow generator was one of four stored in the back of a box type trailer in the yard. Whilst the craftsman attempted to manoeuvre one of the generators out towards the trailer ramp, the apprentice, who was standing behind, placed their left hand on the door frame. (Circled in photo below) As the craftsman pulled the generator towards the door, the handle struck the apprentice's hand, jamming it against the door frame. The apprentice attended the local hospital where it was confirmed they had fractured a bone in their thumb. Their hand was placed in a cast.



### What can we do to stop this from happening again?

**Communication** - It is important to remember that a *suitable and sufficient* risk assessment must be carried out for **all** tasks. Discussing the safe method of undertaking any task with the working party is vital for keeping ourselves safe.

**Consideration** - When deciding how to store items – either within a depot, a laydown area or a vehicle – consider how easily the items can be moved or collected in the future. In this instance, although four barrow generators could be fitted into the box trailer, the process of removing them was inherently hazardous.

**Carry out your checks** - Check the weight of all items that you are required to move/manoeuvre, go through the motions of your manual handling training and discuss the safest and most appropriate way to handle the item with the working party before commencing.

**Use your License** - Keep your limbs, fingers, hands and thumbs out of the line of fire. It's okay to challenge, and if something doesn't look or feel right, Stop and reassess the situation.

Communication by (✓)	Managers	✓	Notice board	✓	Tool-box talk		Team brief	✓
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	

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