

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

SHE COMMUNICATION

Look after your eyes, you only get one pair!

One of the most important sensory parts we may take for granted! Close your eyes for a minute and think of the potential of losing or damaging your eye sight.

What happened?

Our contract partner was in the process of clearing branches when a cut piece of branch got caught in the existing hedgerow. Pulling the branch vigorously caused it to spring and flick up behind the visor, striking the operative in the eye. Fortunately, there were only minor injuries as our colleague was wearing a full-face mesh visor but the operative did attend A&E and received anti-biotic eyedrops to reduce the potential for infection.



Hedgerow and Pole



Type of branches involved in incident

Learning Points

- PPE can prove vital at reducing the risk of a severe injury however it is our last line of defence. We must ensure that we have other robust control barriers in place to prevent a hazard from becoming a risk.
- Ensure you follow the correct working method for the tasks you undertake, evaluate each situation and take the necessary precautions when difficult circumstances arise.
- Take your time and think about the activity you are carrying out. Take regular 20 second scans and evaluate the need of doing something before doing it. (i.e. in this instance did all cut pieces need to be taken away and cleared from a hedgerow in a field?)
- Consider the correct working position when undertaking any task and if additional strength is required to pull a perceived loose object, stop and reassess your method and to do it safely.

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	

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