

Apprentice LTI's & Minor Injuries

What has happened?

Since the start of 2016 there have been **3 LTI's** and **2 Minor Injuries** involving **Apprentices**. This is a worrying trend for ESB Networks and is one we must urgently address to ensure that safety is a core value.

LTI Descriptions	Actual Injuries	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SHIELD ID – 16240: While working aloft on a pole an NT let slip a pliers from his grasp which fell and hit an Apprentice on the rear of his neck. The Apprentice received stitches to the wound the following day. SHIELD ID – 17468: While working on a new customer connection an Apprentice cut the tendon in his thumb with a knife when stripping a cable. SHIELD ID – 19236: An Apprentice suffered a cut-injury to the upper side of his torso whilst lifting / moving a metering cabinet from a switch-room. 		

On-the-Job learning is a critical part of the Apprentice learning programme and is essential to the learning experience and development of competent staff. Apprentices, as an at-risk group, may lack experience in identifying risks to their own safety and health which is where strong leadership in relation to supervision and mentoring is critical. Consideration must be given to apprentices when planning and risk assessing any tasks that they will undertake. Section 8.8 of ESB Networks current Safety Statement applies to all young and at-risk groups (**including Summer Students**) working for ESB Networks

What do I need to do?

Managers/Supervisors:

- Ensure all staff & Apprentices reporting to you receive a copy of this alert.
- Ensure all Apprentices receive a safety induction upon joining your team and regular work specific inductions as required.
- Review Apprentice Log books to determine their level of experience, knowledge and skill.
- Familiarise yourself with “*Apprentice Supervision Policy Document while working on job rotations*” (DOC-12115-CBX)
- Ensure a competent NT is assigned to each Apprentice and that the importance of this role is fully understood
- Ensure the level of supervision required is clearly understood by the competent NT and the Apprentice
- Make yourself available to Apprentices to discuss any safety concerns they may have and provide regular feedback & support on their safety performance.
- Ensure all Apprentices under your control receive a Monthly Safety Briefing.

Networks Technicians/Mechanics:

- Give special consideration to Apprentices when completing JSSP.
- Ensure adequate supervision of Apprentices on site at all times.
- Make yourself available to Apprentices to discuss any safety concerns they may have and provide regular feedback & support on their safety performance.
- Familiarise yourself with “*Apprentice Supervision Policy Document while working on job rotations*” (DOC-12115-CBX)

Apprentices:

- If it's not safe don't do it. Always speak up if you are unsure about your safety or that of others.
- Report all safety incidents to your line manager immediately.
- The Apprentice Safety Advocate (*John Flynn – 087 948 3931*) is available to discuss any confidential safety matters with all Apprentices. Input Safety Advocate Phone number into your phone for future reference.

This Safety Alert is issued for advisory purposes and to promote learning & safety awareness within ESB Networks.

For queries on this safety alert please contact Keith Kavanagh, Competence Development Manager, NTC Mob. - 087 2994459