

FOR ISSUE TO WHOLESale

SHE ALERT

INSULATION KNIFE FALL FROM HEIGHT

What happened?

A Working Party was reinstating insulation on boiler pipework located at the 160ft level. A section of insulation required trimming to achieve a better fit. As an operative was withdrawing his insulation knife from its holster, the knife slipped from his hand and fell through an opening underneath the pipework, coming to rest at the 71ft level below. Fortunately no-one was working in the area underneath at the time.



The investigation is on-going, but the initial findings are:

- Inadequate falling object control measures were in place;
- A lanyard was not attached to the tool at the time;
- The POWRA identified the risk of falling objects, but only for sheeting the area where insulation was being cut to size.



What action is required?

Manager

- Review working at height tasks and assess the suitability of control measures to prevent falling objects, including the use of tethering equipment for hand tools, and the creation of adequate barriers (e.g. close boarding, netting, sheeting) and exclusion zones to protect others against falling objects;
- Reinforce the 'Falling Object' campaign to your teams, including the Freefall video.



Supervisor

- Ensure working at height tasks are thoroughly risk assessed to prevent falling objects, and that the control measures identified are strictly adhered to. [Note: Fiddler's Ferry PS have adopted a mandatory requirement for fall from height protection to be installed to ensure a *minimum* of 1m² coverage from the point of work];
- Do not set anyone to work unless the correct tools and equipment have been issued to work safely.

Everyone

- Be your 'Brother's Keeper' and positively challenge anyone who is working unsafely;
- Inform your Supervisor if you have not been issued with the correct tools and equipment for your work;
- Always use hand tool tethering equipment when required.

Please refer to the following guidance documents for more information (available on Document Library):

- SSE Risk Standard RS-SHE-105, Working at Height
- CA-SHE-105-005, Working at Height – Dropped Objects – Employee Risk Card
- Thermal Generation Falling Objects Awareness & Improvement Plan: [MA-GEN-SHE-005-001](#)

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

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Date of issue: 30/07/2015