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Date of Incident : 30-09-02



ESAA 47/2002

Brief Description of Incident:

Supply was connected to a building site in South Melbourne by a contract servicing crew and contract Electrical Inspector.

Subsequently, an employee on the building site reported sparks coming from his drill when he connected it to the site's power supply.

The incident was reported to CitiPower and a CitiPower Electrical Inspector attended the site.

The CitiPower Inspector ascertained that incident occurred as a result of a reverse polarity situation at the site. Full details yet to be ascertained.

Extent of injury/damage

No injuries were sustained. There was damage to the drill and two other appliances on site.

Additional Comments

Initial investigations into the incident have identified that when the customer's REC connected the consumers mains to the switchboard, the actives (3-phase supply) and neutral were incorrectly identified and transposed. This resulted in a reverse polarity and incorrect phase rotation.

This fact was not identified by the contract Electrical Inspector prior to connection of supply.

Employees/contractors involved in the connection of customers have a responsibility to ensure that **all** appropriate tests are performed prior to supply being made available.

Investigations are continuing to determine the root cause. Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector advised.