



## Safety Alert – SA262 Operating a Generator without the Guard

This Alert is applicable to:

Fibre		Distribution		Transmission	X	Wider Business	X
-------	--	--------------	--	--------------	---	----------------	---

Date of issue: 27/03/2015

Incident	Description
<i>Date of Event</i>	09/03/2015
<i>Location</i>	Whakamaru, Waikato
<i>Time</i>	16:10
<i>Injuries/Damage sustained</i>	None
<i>Event Description</i>	 <p>During concrete placement for foundation works, a generator was being used to enable the vibration of the concrete that was being poured. On the second concrete pour, the generators pull cord broke when starting. The guard was taken off and a strop was wrapped around the fly wheel so that they could pull-start the generator. This method worked on the next 2 loads of concrete without incident. On the fifth load, an extension cord that had been draped over the generator slipped down onto the flywheel and became entangled. The plug of the cord spun around hitting the air cleaner box of the generator, causing it to break.</p>
<i>Initial Actions Taken</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employee notified his Supervisor straight away.</li> <li>Generator removed from site</li> </ul>
<i>Why did they do this?</i>	The crew felt under pressure to make a quick decision. They felt if they waited around for another generator, it could have resulted in the concrete going off then it having to be broken up and taken out. This would have been at significant cost. They also felt they were doing the right thing for the business.
<i>Key Learning's/Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALWAYS operate plant with guards in place;</li> <li>Check plant before going to site, including the wear and tear of pull cords;</li> <li>Talk to Managers and/or Supervisors. Ask for help in advance and when things go wrong;</li> <li>Purchase spare pull cord mechanisms and provide training in how to replace them if this is a competency you need to have in your team; and</li> <li>Consider a backup generator for this type of work.</li> </ul>
<i>SM-EI Reference/Hazard Reference ID</i>	<p><b>Hazard Register.</b>  <b>Entry 13 - Contact with moving parts of machinery</b>  <b>Entry 188 - Rotating machinery</b>  <b>Also Worksafe – Best Practice Guidelines for the Safe Use of Machinery</b></p>
<i>This alert was released by:</i>	Janine Wagstaff – Transmission HSQE Manager – 0274 595 660