



FIRST ALERT

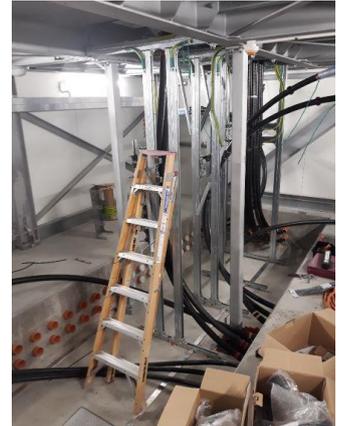
Maximo No. 122947

Date 4/10/2019

Fall from Ladder

Description of Event:

A cable jointer working in the basement of a new building, slipped on the bottom section of a step ladder while assisting two others. He was positioning a high voltage de-energised cable into the base of the new switchgear. He slipped and fell backward hitting the back of his head on the concrete basement floor. Fall height was between 1.2 and 1.5 meters. As a result of his fall he felt unwell, was taken to a local medical facility for assessment and was diagnosed with concussion.



Actions to Prevent Recurrence:

This event is still under investigation and further details will be released when they become known. In the interim, staff are reminded of the following guidance from WorkSafe (*Best practice guidelines for working at height in New Zealand*, July 2019), and the EEA SM-EI:

1. Ensure a step ladder is the most appropriate access equipment for the task.
2. Ensure the ladder is maintained and in good condition – no loose rivets, no splits in the stiles, all safety components working correctly. Faulty ladders should never be used.
3. Ensure that the step ladder is set up on stable ground and all the stabilising stays and locking clips or locking arms are engaged securely. If there is any doubt about the security of the footing, the ladder should be held while in use.
4. Have the steps facing the work activity.
5. Avoid side-on loading work. If this is not practicable, prevent the step ladder from tipping over by tying the steps to a secure point.
6. Avoid holding items when climbing and use a tool belt.
7. Design loads for ladders should never be exceeded.
8. Over-reaching should not be attempted, with a worker's waist always remaining within the confines of the stiles.
9. The top two steps should never be used to work from.

For more information, please contact:

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