

Contact for further Info:

Phil Johnson – HSE Compliance & Assurance Advisor

Email: pjohnson@powernet.co.nz

Mobile: 027 215 2670

Safety Alert

Incident

Issued: 5/08/2024

Security Class: PowerNet Employees & External (with NDA's)

Battery Drill Use

A recent medical injury to a PowerNet Line Mechanic involving the use of a battery drill has highlighted the importance of reminding personnel of the following:



What we all need to do:

Identify Risks and Hazards

Hazards that may arise when operating a battery drill include:

- Moving and rotating parts (drill bits and chuck – secure loose clothing and keep long hair tied back)
- Rotation of the battery drill if the drill bit jams (injury to hand/wrist or being struck by the handle)
- Movement of the workpiece being drilled
- Inhalation of fumes and dust particles
- Ejection of waste materials from cutting blades
- Burns from hot materials or friction

Operating Safety Precautions

- Always wear the appropriate PPE whenever using a battery drill
- Before use – inspect the battery drill for signs of damage and do not use blunt or damaged drill bits
- Ensure the drill is on the correct setting
- Always inspect the workpiece being drilled to ensure that there aren't any items which might damage the drill bit or cause injury to the operator
- When the drill bit has reached operating speed, apply load gradually
- Avoid blocking or covering the motor ventilation slots while using the battery drill
- Never drill pieces of material by holding them in the hands
- Hold the drill firmly and exert care when the drill bit begins to break through

HSE Team have provided all identified external and internal interested parties with this Safety Alert.

NOTE: HSE Team are the only authority to release and circulate this Safety Alert.