

Safety Bulletin

June 2016

Ladder Failure

During use, a timber (fibreglass reinforced) ladder failed.



Failed Ladder

The Faultman using the ladder was towards the bottom of the ladder when it failed resulting in a sprained ankle – it is unclear at this stage whether there was any sign or forewarning of the failure.

The ladder was IN-TEST at the time of failure – this incident reinforces the importance of the pre-use testing /checking required as outlined below.



Close up of Break

All staff are reminded to undertake ladder inspections as per the Safety Manual Electricity Industry (SMEI) rule 2.1407 Using Ladders and the EEA Guide to Portable Equipment for Work On or Near Conductors.

SMEI 2.1407 (b) When using ladders, precautions to be taken include: (iv) **All ladders including step ladders shall be checked immediately prior to use by the employees intending to use them to see if they are in good order.** Faulty ladders shall not be used. The EEA Guide to Portable Equipment for Work On or Near Conductors, contains advice on ladder inspection.

The EEA Guide to Portable Equipment for Work On or Near Conductors: Section 11.4 Before Use Inspection: **Each time before a ladder is used it must be examined for any signs of damage, splitting or major defects**

If your ladder shows any sign of damage, splitting or major defects, remove it from Service, Tag it as Unsafe, and contact your Supervisor.



Example of Glue/Bonding Degradation

The ladder that failed is currently undergoing inspection and a detailed investigation is underway.

For Further information Contact Maarten Tinsel, DSD QSE Manager.

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