

Incident Title:

Close Call – Exposure to potential electrical shock

Date of Incident:

22nd May 2019

Incident Description and Details:

A street light pole (direct buried type) was found to be rusted at ground level, was on a lean and at risk of falling over. To prevent the pole from falling over it was decided by the Supervisor and Electrician to drive four steel star pickets into the ground and tie the pole to the steel star pickets to provide temporary support. In doing so the star pickets narrowly missed the underground energised electrical cable.

The Supervisor and Electrician did not properly assess the risk. They incorrectly assumed the cable location, and the conduit type prior to driving the metal stakes into the ground.



Recommendations / Lessons:

- A proper risk assessment must be conducted to ensure effective controls are in place for each identified hazard to eliminate or mitigate the risk.
- If a service is identified within the area (e.g. gas, water, electricity), then a Dial Before You Dig or another safe system of work is required, such as Permit To Work (PTW). PTWs are required for activities requiring isolation and/or lockout of live equipment or live energy sources.
- Alternative above-ground methods would have eliminated the need to penetrate the ground with steel star pickets.



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Date of Incident Alert issue: July 1st, 2019

Alert Number: