

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance and Practices



Alert Number: SA09_17

Subject: ASP1 failed to short circuit, seal and danger tag an UG cable

26 July 2017

Key Messages

- **Workers must short circuit, seal and danger tag newly installed cables**
- **Apprentices must be adequately supervised at all times**

Recently a civil contractor working on a development was cleaning up concrete debris around a concreted street light rag bolt assembly and witnessed an arc flash from a conduit which sprayed hot water/liquid out of the conduit onto the individual's face/neck. No injuries were sustained to the individual.

The footing comprised two conduits with a street lighting cable looped from one conduit to the other. The incident occurred when the civil contractor pushed the cable into the conduit to reduce the size of the cable loop between the two conduits. The cable was supposed to be de-energised as the street light column was not yet installed.

Around one month prior to the incident ASP1 workers were to install street lighting and associated underground cables for a street intersection. When they arrived onsite they found some of the street light columns had not been delivered. Other work proceeded and a Clearance to Work was issued by the Compliance Officer to install other street lights.

An apprentice was assigned the task to install the new street light cables, the investigation found the apprentice had not short-circuited, sealed or danger-tagged the cable into the street light rag bolt assembly as per Ausgrid's network standards and procedures NS130 clause 15.4 & 15.5 and ES4 clause 4.8. His immediate supervisor was on another part of worksite and did not oversee or check the apprentice's work. ES4 clause 4.5 states an apprentice 'must be under direct supervision at all times by an appropriately qualified authorised person for the task being carried out'.

At some stage the streetlight cable was terminated in the existing pillar. If the cables had been short-circuited, sealed and danger-tagged the inadvertent connection of the cable would have been prevented.

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Project Officers