

Safety Alert - 22

Missing Pole Fillers

Key Points

- Review distribution boards, temporary or otherwise and ensure the pole fillers are in place
- Distraction or perceived pressure can lead to things being missed we need to ensure we concentrate on the task at hand for our safety and the safety of other personnel.

what is the Problem?

Recently we had a hazard reported where the pole fillers were left out on a temporary distribution board.

This reminded me of an incident last year where pole fillers were left out of a 'sub board' which had been left open whilst live. A worker in the vicinity took a telephone call and was distracted and inadvertently leaned on the sub board sustaining an electric shock.

In the case of the temporary distribution board it appears it had been picked up from Ferryden Park in this condition and not checked.

What are the Risks?

- There should be adequate guarding (pole fillers) to prevent anyone coming into contact with the live parts of the of temporary distribution board.
- The distribution board had no out of service tags on it to indicate it was faulty.
- The board should have been checked prior to energisation to ensure it is safe.

What is the Solution?

- The boards should be tagged out if they are faulty to warn anyone of the fault so that it can be rectified, this should occur at commissioning or de-commissioning of the board.
- The temporary distribution board should be checked thoroughly prior to being energised.
- There is no excuse for energising a distribution board when it is unsafe.

Think Safe, Act Safe