

SAFETY LESSONS LEARNT BULLETIN

Issued: June 2022

Distribution Board Electrical Labelling Error

Information sharing:

Electrical Maintainer was undertaking a job replacing an actuator sludge outlet at the Finham tertiary solids removal (TSR) plant.

Prior to commencing work they had identified, isolated & locked off the actuator at the main distribution board. Removal of the outer grey cover to the actuator and also the red cover in the middle was required to test if the system was dead. At this point it was discovered that the system was still electrically live (400V system). Live electric cables were exposed at this point, so this was potentially highly dangerous.

Maintainer immediately replaced all the covers and returned to the distribution board in the cabin to check the isolation. At this point he noticed that both the clarifiers were very quiet – normally at least one would be running.

On inspection of the distribution board, he peeled back a label stuck on the board and noticed that the written label underneath did not correspond with the label that had been stuck over the top.



Key messaging:

- Before carrying out any isolation of any equipment you must correctly identify that it is the correct equipment requiring isolation
- Do not solely rely on cabinet labels or identification plates
- If possible, run the equipment to be worked on and confirm by touch/noise/vibration or operation that this is the correct equipment.
- Turn Isolator off and try to start it again in hand
- If it is not possible to run the equipment due to its fault status and there is duplicate equipment of a similar type alongside, run this to establish identification
- If identification cannot be confirmed, no work is to take place. Report issue to manager and raise Safety Net incident
- Electrical trained maintainers must use a Martindale and proving unit to test for dead when intrusive electrical work is being carried out
- Non contact voltage pens are prohibited in testing for dead



Live terminals behind red disc