



Work Safety Alert

Electrocution when Removing Electrical Installation

- 1. Date of Accident :** May 2016
- 2. Place of Accident :** A single-storey structure under demolition
- 3. Summary :**

A worker while removing an electrical installation at a single-storey structure under demolition was suspected to have been electrocuted.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers :

To prevent electrical hazards associated with demolition work, the contractor/employer undertaking demolition work should take effective safety measures which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments and, among others, formulate a safe system of work for removal of electrical installations including the implementation of a permit-to-work system with all necessary safety precautions taken to eliminate and control the electrical hazards;
- making arrangement with the power supply company to disconnect the power supply to the premises/structure to be demolished;
- ensuring that no demolition work should be started unless formal notification from the power supply company has been received to the effect that all the supply of electricity has been terminated;
- taking effective steps, including checking by a Registered Electrical Worker (“REW”), to ensure that all power supply to the premises/structure has been terminated before demolition;



- appointing REW(s) to remove electrical installations as far as practicable and under no circumstance should a non-REW be allowed to carry out such removal work unless he is under the immediate supervision of an experienced REW;
- providing suitable personal protective equipment such as insulating gloves and mat to the workers involved and ensuring the proper use of such equipment by them;
- ensuring the workers who are involved in removing such electrical installation should have received proper training and are experienced in performing such work; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring system to ensure the strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Electricity\) Regulations¹](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes for the Safe Isolation of Electricity Source at Work¹](#)
- [Code of Practice for the Electricity \(Wiring\) Regulations, 2015 Edition, by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department¹](#)

¹ Click to view document



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Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.