

## Safety Alert

To: All EGT Apprentices & Hosts  
From: Paul Laycock, OSH Advisor  
CC: Field Officers

Date 6 February 09

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It is with concern that I bring to your attention the fact that two EGT apprentices have recently received electric shocks from neutral conductors whilst working on powered sites.

- In both instances the circuits were tested to ensure that the active conductors had been isolated correctly.
- The shocks occurred as they disconnected neutral conductors which had been twisted together to form a circuit.
- Upon investigation it was discovered that the neutral conductors had been connected to another circuit which was not isolated, resulting in a back feed on the neutral.
- I can only emphasise the importance of being aware of the potential danger from neutral conductors when working near live lighting or power circuits especially if the installation involves building-wire installed in conduit.

It is important for you to realise that the risk of shocks from crossed neutrals is greater if the circuits are not protected by a Residual Current Device (RCD).

- At all times it is important to test neutrals before and after disconnecting them to ensure that the neutral conductors have not become live. .
- Remember a neutral conductor may become live due to a feed from another circuit when it has been disconnected.
- All the time the neutral is connected it will not light a volt stick and should not give a reading on a meter to earth.
- Treat all conductors as live and do not touch them with your fingers under any circumstances

**TEST BEFORE YOU TOUCH**

**DON'T ASSUME IT'S DEAD....CHECK IT**

**MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE EVERY TIME**