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# Safety Alert

To: All EGT Apprentices & Hosts

From: Paul Laycock, OSH Advisor

CC: Field Officers

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**Re** Testing of circuit after isolation. SA 19

Recently an EGT Apprentice received a shock whilst replacing a Skirting Switched Socket outlet. Before any work had commenced on the installation the

- service protective fuse had been removed,
- the main switch had been turned off and tagged out,
- all other breakers and fuses removed or made safe,
- and all switches turned off.

But he still received a shock because the last and most important check had not been carried out before he started work,

HE DID NOT TEST THAT THE CIRCUIT WAS SAFE TO WORK ON.

Upon investigation it was revealed that in order to obtain free power the conduit enclosing the incoming mains cable had been spliced into. The active in the illegal wiring had been used to supply circuits throughout the house, and subsequently was still energised, even though the isolation process at the meter box indicated otherwise.

This incident could have easily been avoided if the correct procedure for isolation of a circuit had been followed. You MUST always ensure that a circuit you have isolated is NOT LIVE prior to working on it regardless of the isolation that has taken place, test it to make sure YOU ARE SAFE to work. Do not assume anything is safe to work on without this final test.

Use the checklist in your risk assessment book.

This incident was the result of an illegal action by others, but a simular result could have occurred if the incoming mains had been transposed or if there had been an earth fault resulting in the earthing conductor becoming live. In all these instances a simple test with a proximity tester (voltstick) would have indicated a dangerous situation prior to commencing work.

Isolation of circuits at fuse board

Location in roof space where the incoming main cables were spliced into, *note in order for this to have to occurred the connection would have had to be carried out live!*

Rewireable fuse and circuits being fed from the incoming mains

Remember

Test, Test and Test again then get someone to check it for you because you never know what has been done before you.