Electrical Fatality

23 October 2019

Incident overview
An electrician has sustained fatal injury from electrocution while servicing a 3-phase commercial dishwasher at a restaurant in Marrickville.

Photograph 1: The commercial dishwasher wiring and control area (3 phase supplied, covers removed)

The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.
Safety Information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017.

The Regulation prohibits energised electrical work on electrical installations and appliances, except in specific circumstances.

Electrical work must only be carried out by a licensed electrician who has the necessary training and experience to undertake the task.

Consider ‘reasonably practicable’ control measures to manage the risks of working with electrical installations and appliances, including:

- checking equipment for damaged covers and cords, exposed wires, faulty power switches and circuit breakers, sparks, scorch marks and burning smells
- locating all sources of electricity to the equipment and property
- identifying hazards that may result from isolating the power
- switching off the power at the meter box or lockable isolator switch, and locking the switch (or the meter box itself). Otherwise use a recognisable lock-out tag
- testing before you touch
- if the property has a solar/battery storage system, follow the proper isolation procedure.

Further information

- Electrical work guidance material
- Electrical safety video
- Code of practice for managing electrical risks in the workplace