



OH&S Bulletin

Avoid Shocked Plumbers!

It's not an issue that's a problem on your average, commercial construction site, but it happens on the smaller sites.

If there is an electrical supply fault in the area, metallic water pipes can become live. Plumbers installing water metres to metallic water service have received electric shocks while cutting through the pipe.

Prior to the installation of water meters, or repair or replacement of metal water services, plumbers and their assistants should ALWAYS:

- thoroughly clean the length of pipe on each side of the length being repaired;



- attach a bridging conductor (stranded copper cable with appropriate end clamps, capable of carrying amperes) to span the length of pipe to be cut;

- ensure the clamps make good physical contact with the metal pipe;

- ensure the bridging conductor remains undisturbed until the work is finished; and

- notify the electricity supply distributor and the building occupier if any electrical abnormality is suspected at a worksite.

You can't see it, but you sure know about it if you get a shock!

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