



# Safety Alert

**INCIDENT TITLE:** Fall from Height due to Barrier Failure

**TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:** 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

## INCIDENT DETAIL

A contractor fell approximately 5m from the turbine pit access area in Unit 6 at Ohau power station on to the draft tube platform below.

The area which had previously been inaccessible was open to allow a safety observer visual line of sight with the work party welding below on the draft tube platform.

Temporary barrier rails had been put in place at the edge of the direct drop into the pit area.

When weight was placed against the lower rail to retrieve an item from below, it gave way resulting in the contractor falling into the pit and fracturing his leg.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

During the planning of the work, the need to mitigate the risk of fall from the open turbine pit access way was addressed and the decision to use a temporary barrier agreed on.

The suitability of the choice of barrier and the manner of installation have been identified as contributing factors to the fall.

Despite the need for a control being identified, the barrier chosen was not suitable and all forms of fall protection/restraint should be load bearing and not acting as a visual barrier only.

## BEST PRACTICE

Any barrier used as a form of fall protection or restraint should be fit for purpose and adequate risk assessment carried out to ensure the control put in place is sufficient.

## PHOTOGRAPHS



## IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS

All site managers to ensure barriers to any open areas where a fall could occur are fit for purpose and correctly installed.



This Safety Alert is issued by the Corporate Safety & Health Team. For further information please contact:

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