

Shared Learning

Slip, trip, fall

Conflicting controls

What happened?

Worker observed in hydro conveyance tunnel without head protection.

Worker was proceeding to worksite within the tunnel to undertake leak repair work. This work presented the risk of exposure to dust particulates and the requirement for respiratory equipment was identified during task planning. However, while walking to the worksite, the wet and slippery ground surface of the tunnel presented a slip risk, with potential of head injury in the event of a fall. With the conflict of being unable to wear a hard hat with respiratory equipment, the head protection was omitted.

Conveyance Tunnel

What did we learn?

The identified risks were not concurrent.

The risk of slip, trip and fall was highest during access and egress while the respiratory risk was present while undertaking work. PPE should be considered last line of defence.

Discussion around the observation lead to reminders that risk assessment should always consider:

- is everyone 'present' today
- access and egress to and from work location
- the task and immediate environment
- tidy-up, clear up and make safe when leaving the worksite – no matter how long.

Petzl helmets were noted as a good option for use in confined spaces – with a number of helpful features.

Petzl Helmets:



For lighting: each helmet has a front mounting slot and four positioning hooks for mounting a headlamp.

For eye and hearing protection: the user can install face shield and hearing protection.