# Shared Learning

Electrical Industry Health & Safety Group

## Hazardous Substances

| Chemical Burns from Vandex | Hydro Generation Site |
|---|---|

### What happened?

Discovered work during an outage required introduction to site of a new product by a specialist contractor. SDSs were supplied and the product was used by labour hands and abseil specialists.

The product, Vandex (a concrete based rapid setting waterproofing / plugging mortar) caused irritation and burns when it came into contact with skin, the severity increased due to the rubbing of the glove during hand movements.

Skin was washed and gauze applied to affected areas.

### What did we learn?

Gloves being used were 'standard issue' work gloves and not the rubber gloves recommended on the Vandex website.

*"Available information suggests that gloves made from nitrile rubber should be suitable for intermittent contact."*

Safety data sheets, frequently 10+ pages, (this one was 14 pages) should be stored at site with:

- Critical information extracted and provided in summary / large print to improve communication.
- Training in safe application of the chemical provided to all staff and contractors using the product.