

Shared Learning

Critical Risk: Stored Energy

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Disabled Turbine Trip - Ngā Tamariki Power Station

WHAT HAPPENED?

- During turbine valve trip testing, one of the turbine injection valves failed to close.
- Inspection revealed that the quick exhaust trip solenoid vent port had been intentionally plugged.
- The reason for the plug remains unknown; requiring tools and ladder access to disable this safety critical element (SCE).
- In any overspeed event or other critical turbine trip, this valve would have remained fully open, reducing protection from 1002 valves (stop valve or injection valve) to 1001.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

- Reinforces the need for regular function/trip testing.
- Emphasizes the importance of thorough SCE inspections.
- Highlights the need for workers to understand the role of SCEs and be aware of any changes — no matter how minor.

