

SAFETY ALERT



SAFE AND HEALTHY IN ALL WE DO

9th February 2012



As part of an 18 month, national “Byelaw Compliancy Programme” undertaken at over 200 sites, there is a requirement to boundary protection on the incoming potable water supply to our clients sites. This involves locating and exposing the incoming potable water main and installing a WRAS approved double check valve within a chamber to comply with the Byelaw regulations (Scotland) 2004.

Whilst attending a routine site installation there was a requirement to investigate the route of the incoming potable water supply across the site from the welfare building to the site boundary.

During this investigation works a member of the groundwork’s team stepped from the pathway to trace the water main across an area of overgrown ground and whilst doing so stepped on a inspection chamber cover.

The cover, which was incorrectly seated within the aperture, flipped over under the operative’s weight and as he fell into the chamber the corner of the cover caught the operative in the chest.

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Initial first aid was administered on site by another member of the team and the operative was taken to hospital once his breathing had stabilised.

The operative was later released from hospital with bruised ribs and lacerations and returned to work on light duties 3 days later.

Primary accident investigations have identified that whilst the team had been working under correctly issued RAMS and Access certificates there were no site drawings available indicating the incoming water supply. This would have prevented the need to trace the main across the entire site.

In addition the sites grounds had been poorly maintained and were overgrown. The inspection chamber cover had been replaced on top of the overgrowth which in turn had grown over the chamber disguising the edge.

Whilst the operative was fortunate not to have received more serious injuries the accident investigation concluded the need for extra vigilance when working away from a designated footpath or roadway.

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Site safety on operational sites

Action required:

Brief to employees

Brief to managers

Brief to contractors

No brief required

Display on local notice board

Signed notification sheets required