

Working Near Water Significant Near Miss



SUMMARY OF INCIDENT

A working party consisting of six civil engineers were tasked with undertaking 60meters of excavation works in a private unmade bridal road between a four-way connection box and a wooden pole located by the side of the river Derwent.

During an in progress site inspection it was identified that insufficient controls had been implemented to mitigate the risk of working within 5 meters of a known water course.

Subsequently the works were temporarily halted until the appropriate measures had been put in place to control the risks associated with working near water.

LEARNING POINTS

- Ensure activities with elevated risk categories (e.g. working in the vicinity to water) are identified and appropriately managed via the Putting People to Work process
- Compliance with the Telecom Division 'Working Near Water' operating procedure (TD-P-S-057) located within Level 3 of the Business Management System (Stay Connected)
- Ensure only suitably competent personnel are put to work in the vicinity to water (completion of Working Near Water eLearning module via Learn with Us)
- Ensure a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment is undertaken, hazards / risks identified and appropriate control measures implemented
 1. Identify the Hazards
 2. Decide Who Might Be Harmed and How
 3. Evaluate the Risks and Take Action to Prevent Them
 4. Record Your Findings
 5. Review the Risk Assessment
- Always ensure working areas are adequately guarded and appropriately signed
- Never start and always stop work if unsure; always contact your line manager or SHEQ Advisor for guidance and advice
- All personnel to challenge unsafe behaviours and escalate appropriately