

Hydro Tasmania

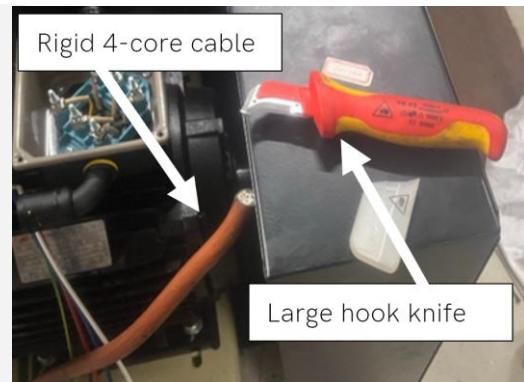
SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENT ALERT

Incident Investigation Findings – Laceration to hand

Alert Number (YYMMDD)	251024	Date Issued	24 October 2025
SAP Incident Number	80763	Approved By	Head of WHS
Alert Category	Safety	Action Required?	Yes

Alert details/incident summary

During a compressor installation at John Butters, an employee sustained a laceration to the palm while stripping a 35mm, 4-core cable using a large hook knife. The task involved removing insulation from a rigid cable. The supervising electrician determined a smaller circular stripping knife was unsuitable and demonstrated the use of the larger hook knife, which was then used by the employee. While applying downward pressure to cut through the tough insulation, the employee repositioned his hand beneath the cutting hand for extra grip. The knife slipped, resulting in a palm laceration.



Investigation Findings:

1. Hazard Identification and PPE

- A Take 5 was completed but focused mainly on the hot works component of the task. The hazard of using a knife and the risk of laceration was not identified.
- Cut-resistant gloves were not worn during the task and not documented on the Take 5.
- The injured worker was using the large cable hook knife for the first time and applied an incorrect stripping technique. Although the knife type was considered suitable for this rigid cable, it was not identified that the apprentice was applying an incorrect technique.

2. Permit Deviation and Task Scope

- The approved permit described the work as “scoping” only, but due to a communication breakdown the actual installation proceeded outside the scope of the permit. This is being managed as a separate incident.

Actions for employees and actions for leaders:

- Ensure Take 5's and risk assessments consider all task elements, including any secondary or prepping activities associated with the main task, such as cable stripping in this instance.
- Hand Protection shall always be carried, to be used whenever there is risk of injury from exposure to sharp objects, materials or tools, especially when force or energy is present.
- Ensure and verify that work being performed matches the approved scope of the permit.
- Supervisors should provide close oversight when apprentices or inexperienced workers perform unfamiliar tasks.
- Review availability and suitability of tools to ensure the safest option is selected for the task.