

Hydro Tasmania

SSL/INJURY/ILLNESS INCIDENT OUTCOME

RED NOTICE

Static Shock While Cleaning Oil Pod (IBC)

Document Number	260605_IO	Date Issued	12 June 2026
Incident Owner	Kevin Douglas	Approved By	Head of WHS
SAP Number	93045	Type of Incident	Moderate Risk Incident

Incident description

A worker was cleaning residual oil from a 1000L IBC at a power station loading bay following oil transfer activities. During the task, a steel rod with a rag attached was being used to clean the base of the IBC when the worker experienced a significant static shock. The worker ceased work and sought precautionary medical assessment. Work was stopped, the IBC was earthed and barricaded, and a toolbox discussion conducted with personnel on site.



Incident Contributing Factors:

- Static electricity was not identified as a hazard during planning or the Take 5 risk assessment, resulting in no controls being implemented to manage static build-up as the hazard was not widely recognised for the task being undertaken.
- No procedure existed for cleaning IBCs, as the activity was generally considered low risk.
- A conductive steel rod was used to clean the IBC, providing a pathway for static discharge to the worker.
- The IBC was positioned within a PVC bund, which may have reduced the ability for static charges to dissipate.
- Previous static shock incidents were reportedly associated with oil transfer activities; however, this information does not appear to have been widely communicated, and there is currently no formal documentation available for reference.
- Historical documentation relating to static electricity during oil transfer exists but was obsolete and not readily accessible to workers.

Incident Learnings & Actions for leaders, employees and contractors

- **Static hazards not considered during task planning** – Incorporate static electricity hazards and controls into relevant procedures, risk assessments, Safety Management Systems and Take 5s.
- **Conductive cleaning tools can provide a discharge path** – Review and standardise suitable non-conductive cleaning tools where practicable
- **Static electricity during oil transfer, storage and IBC cleaning activities not consistently managed** – A documented static electricity management work instruction including bonding and earthing requirements during oil transfer is currently being developed.
- **Potential for static build-up in standard plastic IBCs** – Assess the suitability of anti-static or conductive IBCs and associated equipment for oil handling activities.