



1 | SAFE CABLE IDENTIFICATION

CABLE IDENTIFICATION CAN PREVENT ELECTRIC SHOCK INCIDENTS

Accidentally cutting through a live cable is one of the most common causes of electric shock in our industry. This usually occurs in scenarios where an individual is tasked with removing redundant cables where there is a live source in the area which cannot be isolated for operational reasons.

Despite electrical workers visually identifying the live cable before commencing a task, they often fail to physically mark the cable at this point - this is what often leads to unfortunate mistakes.

WHY DO WE MAKE MISTAKES?

We are all fallible and mistakes happen despite the best intentions. Common reasons include:

- **Task repetition** and complacency.
- **Forgetfulness** can arise from stress, depression, lack of sleep or some medical issues.
- **Internal distractions** are our own thoughts and emotions. These can include thoughts about pressing responsibilities or pleasant things that we'd rather be doing and could also include emotions about life circumstances, the task we are working on, performing multiple tasks and our fears and worries.
- **External distractions** are the ones that originate outside of us such as other people or noise around us or needing to leave our task and return later.

Regardless of the specific reason, all can lead to the live cable being cut unintentionally.

WHAT IS SHARING SITE STRATEGIES?

Safety is a core value at ECA WA and we are always working to improve the safety and well-being of electrical workers throughout Western Australia. As part of this endeavour, we launched the Sharing Site Strategies initiative in late 2023.

This initiative creates a space in the WA electrical sector for shared knowledge, experiences and insights, focusing on a collaborative exploration of industry-relevant topics and best practices.

Do you have any suggestions or comments to share with us? Send an email to communications@ecawa.org.au.



YOUR SAFE SITE STRATEGY

Where there is a mixture of live and dead cables or live and dead cables are in close proximity to each other at the task location, ECA WA advocates the use of tags or similar means to clearly identify either:

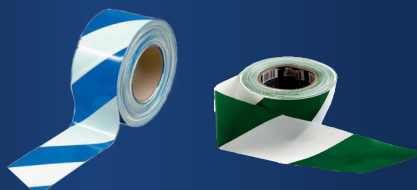
1. The dead cable(s) to be worked on, or
2. The live cable(s) to be avoided.

Which method was used would depend on the number of dead or live cable were involved in the task and in which scenario the live source posed the greatest risk.

MORE LIVE CABLES?



General information tag



Blue / white or green / white tape

MORE DEAD CABLES?



Danger / live wire tag



Universal danger tape.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION AND CONSISTENCY

Regardless of which identification mechanism is used or whether the live source or dead cables are identified, it is important that it is consistent across the organisation using the process and the process is clearly communicated to the electrical workers involved.



DISCLAIMER

This information is intended for general informational purposes only and should not be considered as professional or expert advice. While we strive to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented, we cannot guarantee its completeness, timeliness, or applicability to all situations or circumstances.

ECA WA are not liable for any damages, injuries, or losses incurred due to reliance on the information provided herein.

Always prioritise safety and remember that this is a general resource that is not tailored to your unique situation.