

SAFETY ALERT

BEWARE INSULATED ELECTRICAL CABLES INSTALLED ON THE FACADES OF A BUILDING

This *WorkSafe Victoria Safety Alert* warns tradespeople and others to be aware of possible hazards when working in close proximity of low voltage insulated electric cables connected to, or being supported, along facades of buildings.

Recently, a tradesperson received a severe electric shock from touching a deteriorated and ageing electrical cable being supported along the façade of a building. The tradesperson was standing on a ladder and doing plumbing work at the time.

Mr Ken Gardner, Victoria's Director of Energy Safety, said:

“A number of buildings in Victoria are still supplied with older type electrical cable insulation. Due to the natural ageing of this type of insulation, the deterioration may result in bare live conductors, which in certain cases, may energise metallic structures around the damaged cable. Unfortunately fatalities have occurred because of incidents involving worn out or damaged cable insulation. Therefore, people must exercise extreme care, and carry out a detailed safety assessment when working at height and in close proximity to any cables which have been façade mounted”



Mr Gardner provides the following advice to people working in close proximity to low voltage insulated cables connected to or being supported along a façade of a building:

- Always carry out a Job Safety Assessment before starting work
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment
- Do not touch or disturb any electrical cables
- Avoid using electrically conductive (aluminium) ladders near any electrical cables
- Always maintain at least 500mm clearance from a low voltage insulated electric cable
- Immediately notify the relevant electricity supplier or *Energy Safe Victoria* and advise the owner or occupier of the building if the cable shows any signs of deterioration.

Electricity suppliers:

Energy Australia	131 525
Advance Energy	132 356
Integral	131 003
Origin	132 461

Further information can be obtained from the *Energy Safe Victoria's* website: www.esv.vic.gov.au

PRINT THIS LEAFLET AND PLACE IT ON YOUR NOTICE BOARD AT WORK

