

## WHAT HAPPENED?

A company was having problems with an electrical breaker that kept tripping. They called an Electrician to come out and troubleshoot the issue and the Electrician arrived over the noon hour. The Electrician turned off various breakers to diagnose the circuits without locking out the breakers or tagging out the breaker panel. There was no communication to any of the staff about the Electrician on site. After lunch, one of the staff members came back to work and found that there was no electricity to his work area and like many times before, he just went to the breaker panel and flipped the breaker back on. Moments later, there was a loud bang and the cover of an electrical junction box cover flew across the work area striking and denting a metal wall.



## WHAT DID/COULD HAVE WENT WRONG?

No one was injured, but the potential for injury and/or even death was extremely high as a result of this incident. Had the Electrician been handling electrical components at the time of this incident, he could have been severely injured or even killed. Had the workers been in the flight path of the electrical junction box cover, they could have been severely injured or even killed.

## KEY LESSON FROM INCIDENT

This incident speaks to the importance of developing safe work policies and procedures for Contractor management and Lock out tag out to address the hazards associated with the work being performed. Had this employer developed and implemented such safe work policies and procedures, the risk of this event happening in the first place would have been minimal.

Equally unfortunate, some incidents happen regardless of the policies and procedure implemented and this speaks to the importance of developing and implementing reporting and Investigation policies and procedures. Understanding why incidents happen will help employers understand what can be done to prevent similar events from occurring in the future.

Hazard assessments are the responsibility of the employer and must be completed to understand the hazards and risks associated with the work being performed. Once the hazards and risks are understood, the organization can develop and implement controls to reduce the likelihood of exposure. Doing nothing will ensure events like this will continue to happen and increase the likelihood of serious injury or even a fatality.

Members are encouraged to contact MSA if they need assistance with Contractor management, Lock out tag out procedures, Hazard Assessments and Investigation training; as these services are offered from MSA at no charge.

If you have had an incident that you would like to share in confidence, please email [info@motorsafety.ca](mailto:info@motorsafety.ca)