

High Potential Incident – Electric Shock from a Caddy Welder

Site: Mount Carlton

Date: 21 / 01 / 2013

Description:

A worker whilst holding an earth lead sustained a mild shock to his right hand from a portable Caddy Welder, he continued working after placing the welder on to a platform ladder and received a 2nd mild shock. A second person also received a mild shock when he placed the earth clamp of the welder on to steel pipe work.

Actual Severity: Low

Worst Potential Severity: High

Key Findings:

- There was a break in the main supply earth in the moulded plug which caused the frame and the leads to rise to 110 V AC. This is due to a capacitive noise filtration circuit on the secondary side of the isolation transformer
- Shock was similar to that of an electric fence
- Recalled all Caddy welders and found they behave the same way under the same fault condition
- All moulded plugs were replaced on Caddy welders
- All earth continuity checks were tested & recorded

Key Messages and Lessons Learned

- To report incidents as soon as they occur, this would have prevented the additional two electric shocks occurring.

