Safety Alert

High Potential Incident
Failure to Comply with Isolation Procedures

INCIDENT DETAILS

Following an issue with the fiber addition system, the Assistant Plant Manager investigated the fault. Local isolation was applied using both the Manager-in-Charge lock and the operative lock, and the LOTOTO process was completed in accordance with the isolation card. After the fault was identified and rectified, the isolation was removed and the equipment was re-energized for testing. The equipment was then operated with the guard removed, and no additional control measures were implemented to protect personnel during the testing activity.

The Assistant Manager subsequently left the area to sign off a permit for another contractor, leaving the equipment energized and unguarded. An operative identified the unsafe condition and re-isolated the equipment to ensure the area remained safe until the Assistant Manager returned.

KEY FINDINGS

✓	Initially local isolation applied.
✗	The task was undertaken without a Permit to Work or suitable pre-task planning - **TPM**
✗	No Take 5 was completed by the Plant Manager; however, the operator had completed a Take 5 when the issue was identified
✗	Lack of effective communication with team members during the task.
✗	The area was left without guarding or isolation controls when the manager became distracted.
✗	Following the incident appropriate disciplinary measures were taken

REVIEW POINTS FOR ALL SITES

- Apply isolation procedures strictly in accordance with the written requirements.
- A permit to work must be in place before any guard is removed.
- Complete an effective Take 5 before undertaking any activity.
- Ensure effective communication is maintained across the site throughout the task.
- Avoid shortcuts and always leave equipment in a safe condition.
- **TPM**: Consider whether sufficient task planning and risk assessment have been applied, even for minor maintenance activities.
- Remain focused on the task and avoid distractions that may compromise safety.





Isolation Procedures
Never work on live or moving machinery – always 'lock out'.

Look for Yourself and Each Other

Tools and Equipment

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