

## **CNSOPB Safety Notice**

### **Electrical Lock-Out**

**January, 2001**  
**Safety Notice #2001-02**

This Safety Notice communicates investigation findings from an incident that occurred in our offshore area involving a motorman receiving an electrical shock.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On June 1, 2000, the Board was notified that a motorman had receiving an electrical shock while cleaning inside a generator enclosure. The generator itself was fully isolated; however, the shock came from a wire that was connected to an anti-condensation/space heater. The power supply to the heater came from two phases of a 220 volt circuit, connected to a three phase distribution board. The power supply was controlled via a multipole switch mounted on the main switchboard. Energy to the heater was believed to be isolated because the multipole switch had been turned off and a voltmeter test had been conducted between the two heater terminals. Investigations determined that the switch did NOT interrupt one phase of the circuitry and that there had been no pole to ground voltmeter test conducted by the electrician. As a result, a motorman received a shock of approximately 120 volts. Although there were no serious injuries, a thorough investigation was deemed warranted by the Board.

#### **ACTION REQUIRED**

1. Operators must ensure that all electrical installations are designed, installed, operated, inspected, serviced and maintained in accordance with governing regulations.
2. Consistent with the above, all actions shall be taken to:
  - a) Identify, and modify where practicable, any double pole circuits using single pole switching; and,
  - b) Review lock out procedures to ensure that energy is fully isolated, dissipated, and secured prior to the entry of an unprotected worker into an area where there is a potential electrical hazard.

#### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board - Occupational Health & Safety Requirements (Element 1, section 3) (Element 2, Part 8).

Questions regarding this Safety notice should be directed to the CNSOPB, attention:

C. Andrew Parker  
Chief Safety Officer