

19 March 2015

Mr Peter Dunphy
Executive Director
WHS Division
Workcover

email: maryann.finlay@workcover.nsw.gov.au

Dear Peter

I write to you today in relation to a fatal electrical incident that took place on 3 February 2015 at the Galleria shopping centre, Morley, Western Australia.

The electrical incident resulted in two workers being fatally injured and a further two workers in hospital with serious injuries.

The High Voltage oil-insulated equipment involved in these fatalities has a history of destructive failure and we are worried that it is only a matter of time until there is another explosion.

There are potentially thousands of these units around the country and we have no idea where they are or what condition they are in.

We call upon Workcover to work with regulators in other states and territories to identify the location of each piece of this equipment and examine maintenance records to ensure the equipment is in good working order.

We further call upon Workcover to ensure that electrical contractors are instructed not to perform work on this or any other piece of electrical equipment while it remains energised.



I have attached the "Urgent attention bulletin" issued by Richard Gough, head of Safety, Health and Environment from "Westernpower" which identifies the relevant equipment, I have also attached a High Voltage Hazard Alert from NHS Wales that identifies similar concerns as those raised in Western Australia.

The Electrical Trades Union believes that Workcover must treat this matter seriously and ensure that as a regulator the safety of workers and the public is placed first and foremost.

The Union requires an urgent response from Workcover in relation to what action they will take in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Steve Butler
Secretary
