



Linesman falls into slurry pit

A linesman and an engineer were recently attempting to gain access late in the evening to a HV fuse in a farm yard which had operated. In doing so, the linesman climbed a farm gate and stepped off into an unmarked slurry pit. He fell and briefly became submerged. He was helped from the pit by the engineer, and following a brief clean up in the farm yard, was sent home, shaken but uninjured. The farmer later pointed out the pit was up to three feet deep, and had been in place for many years. He also advised there was a ramp in the pit to assist anyone that accidentally fell in.



Learning points

1. Wherever possible discuss safe access routes with landowners, and have them escort you around their premises where practicable or necessary.
2. If working during the hours of darkness, ensure that you have adequate lighting for the tasks being undertaken.
3. Look out for any signs warning of hazards. If there are unexpected hazards that will affect safe working they must be added to the site risk assessment and suitable controls put in place. Report serious hazards that cannot be controlled to the landowner and perhaps mark it in some way to protect others.
4. Ensure when working around farms that all appropriate PPE is being worn and that all cuts or open wounds are covered to reduce the risk of contracting Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) or other biological hazards.
5. If in doubt stop work and contact your Supervisor.

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