

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

The management and staff of the ECA(SA) in the East / South Cape region extend its congratulations to the following persons on their election as office bearers and committee members for 2009:-

Port Elizabeth

Arnold Whiteley	Chairman
Michael Straton	Vice Chairman
Graham Clarke	
Cliffy Goosen	
Ti-jean Nabal	

South Cape

Hannes Raubenheimer	Chairman
Edwin Joshua	Vice Chairman
Wayne Hodgson	

East London

Wayne Nicholas	Chairman
Gerhard Lemmer	Vice Chairman
Sedley Gower	

ANNUAL BUILDERS SHUTDOWN

The annual builder's holiday in the East and South Cape will be from 12 December 2008 to 12 January 2009. The building industry has observed an annual closing for many years, but members are reminded that this is not compulsory as far as the Electrical Industry is concerned.

Many electrical contractors elect not to shut down during the Christmas holiday period.

Members are reminded of the requirement to pay leave pay and bonuses to those employees who proceed on leave in December 2008.

ELECTRICITY SAFETY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN - WORKING UNDER OR NEAR POWER LINES

Eskom appeals to the construction industry to always treat power lines as live when working near them

Exposure to unsafe working conditions near the Eskom electricity installations is a major cause of injuries and deaths among construction workers, especially drivers of tipper trucks, crane controllers, and drivers of large machinery that accidentally touches the overhead power lines. The objects that touch the power line become live and can kill or injure any person coming into contact with them.

Also be aware that the equipment does not have to physically touch the power line; electricity can jump and cause a flashover if getting too close.

Between 2006 and 2007, Eskom recorded a 28% increase in the number of people being killed in the construction industry alone. The most serious concern in these deaths is workers working under or near these power lines, instead of requesting Eskom to isolate the power supply and using other safety procedures, as well as failure to avoid live overhead power lines and an apparent lack of basic electrical safety knowledge. The risk of being injured is increased if power lines or conductors are damaged.

Over the years, Eskom has seen the reality that accidental contacts with electrical equipment cost so much more than only the financial loss. Losses of life and injuries have a terrible and lasting impact on victims and their families, friends and co-workers.

Please apply the tips mentioned below when working near electricity structures:-

- Contact Eskom in advance to isolate the power supply.
- Always guard against working too close to power lines, and always ensure that there are no power lines above or near you before you start working.
- Be careful when working with mobile equipment or when offloading trucks in the vicinity of power lines.
- Train employees on electrical safety.
- If a power line has fallen onto your vehicle, do not exit, but wait for Eskom to switch off the power to the line lying on the vehicle.
- Once the power to the line has been switched off and Eskom has given the go-ahead, you may exit the vehicle.
- Treat all power lines as live, always.
- Do not touch any material on which a power line may be resting.

- In case of emergency and for more information on electricity safety, please contact Eskom on 08600Eskom (37566) or email safety@eskom.co.za

Eskom's Public Safety Division has a mission to prevent electrical accidents by educating people working under or near electricity installations. These accidents can be prevented and everyone should know what the dangers are and how to avoid them. Eskom is committed to continuously educating and raising awareness on the need to use electricity safely.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR ECA(SA)

The East / South Cape Regional Executive Committee and members extend their congratulations to Dean Nevay, Operations Director of B&W Instrumentation and Electrical Limited in Alberton, Gauteng on his election as ECA(SA) President at the AGM of the Association held on Friday 21 November 2008.

The 1st Vice President is Mark Mfikoe of Tlaballo Electrical in Gauteng, whilst Thursdan Duncan from Cape Town and Dirk Engelbrecht from Pretoria were elected as 2nd Vice Presidents.

ECA NATIONAL TECHNICAL CALL CENTRE

If you need urgent advice on the interpretation of a clause in the Wiring Code (SANS 10142-1) please make use of the ECA Technical Helpline.

An expert is available during office hours to assist you. The Call Centre number is 0861 322 721 OR 0861 ECASA 1.

Kind regards

LM Bowles
Regional Director
East / South Cape