

Safety Alert

February 2016



Electrical Hazard Identified with Trams Under Rail Bridge

Any works conducted near tram infrastructure (included but not limited to tracks, overhead and substations) must be approved by Yarra Trams prior to commencement.

Submissions must be sent to Yarra Trams at least ten (10) working days prior to scheduled/proposed commencement of work.

A safety hazard had been identified on overhead rail bridges at locations where trams pass underneath. The hazard can occur if the tram High Voltage traction power comes into contact with the rail bridge, causing energisation of the bridge/overhead and support structures. This potentially extends an electrical hazard to any structures attached to the bridges, such as, but not limited to traffic signage and advertising billboards.

Cause

Tram High Voltage traction power can come into contact with a rail bridge due to a defective pantograph or as the result of vehicular impact. The bridge will become energised at the time of the strike as a result until the electricity finds an earth source.

Hazard

Electrocution, infrastructure damage.

Recommendation

It is recommended any third party contractors who plan works within the vicinity of these rail bridges adhere to the following in addition to the existing safety requirements working in an area with electricity:

- Use an electrical detection meter device to determine if the bridge is energised prior to commencing work;
- Ensure tram High Voltage traction power is isolated around the bridge prior to and during works;
- Organise a permit for tram High Voltage traction power isolation around the bridge, prior to and during works. Permits can be obtained by emailing permits@yarratrams.com.au or by visiting their website (<http://www.yarratrams.com.au/contact-us/getting-in-touch/working-around-yarra-trams-infrastructure/>).

Issued 19/02/2016 by VicRoads Corporate OHS Team.