e·on UK	Combined Heat & Power Thornhill Power Station

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TEST RECORD.
Thornhill Outage 2015 - Confined Space Rescue – Abstraction Pump Pit

DATE: 05/05/2015

Task

Inspection and cleaning work was being carried out in the Abstraction Pump Pit. This Pit is approximately 6m deep and accessed vertically via removable floor gratings. The pit is classified as a confined space and has the following foreseeable specified risks:

- Possible drowning from ingress of river water
- Possible asphyxiation from gases e.g. methane or hydrogen sulphide disturbed from the residual sludge.

The pit also contains a residual level of water of approximately 2cm and sludge from the river that creates a slip, trip or fall hazard.

Due to the nature of the access, i.e removal of floor gratings, there is also a significant falling from height risk.

Abstraction Pump Pit

Access point control – Gated and locked area. All persons in area wearing harnesses and clipped onto purpose designed lifting beam.

Exercise Scenario:
The scenario consisted of the person working in the pit (confined space) slipping and sustaining a first aid injury.
The exercise then tested the emergency arrangements and demonstrated the methods of rescue of the injured person.
The rescue was conducted by the contract team from ABFAD – Sean Bell, Ben Fada and Shaun Fisher. ABFAD also enacted the role of the injured party for demonstration purposes.

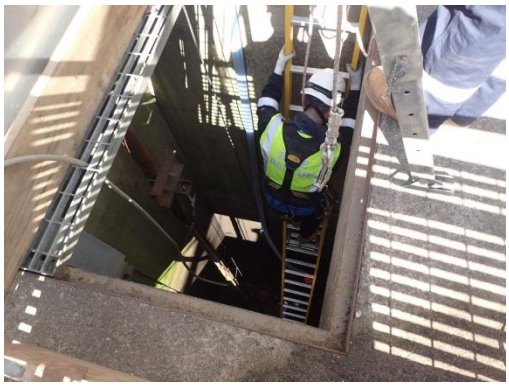
The rescue started when the alarm was raised by the injured person.

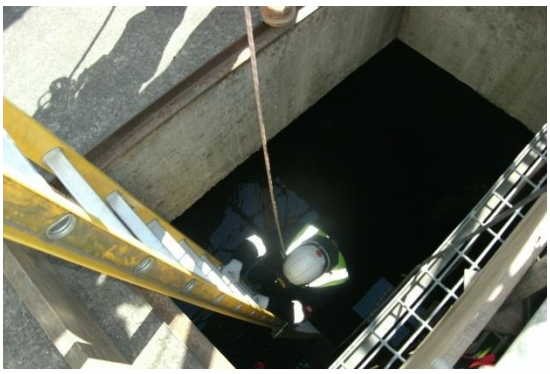
Rescue team on standby, working with contractors who were performing the inspection and cleaning work.

Working Party inside the pit.

ABFAD contractor enacting role of Injured Person

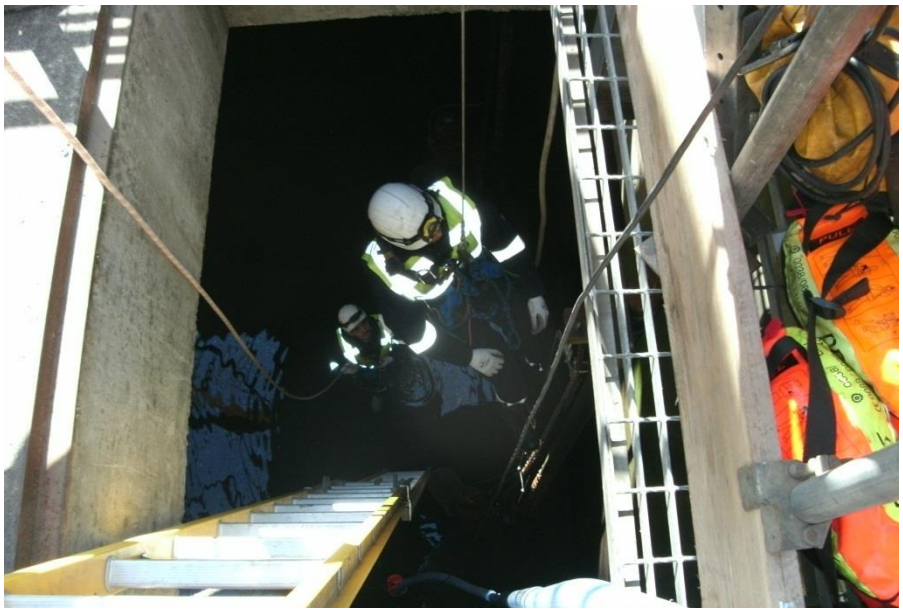
A member of the rescue team confirmed the atmosphere remained breathable and then entered the confined space via the access ladder to assess the injured person. The rescue team member was wearing a harness at all times and connected to a fall arrest system:





The injured person was assessed inside the pit by the rescue team member, then connected to the rescue winch and tripod to be raised from the pit. Once out of the pit, further first aid / medical treatment could be conducted via site/rescue team first aiders or emergency services.

Rescue Team member assessing IP and connecting the IP's harness to the rescue winch.



IP being winched from the confined space.

IP being winched from the confined space.

IP being winched from the confined space.

Summary

The exercise was conducted very professionally by ABFAD and was a very successful demonstration of a basic, vertical entry, confined space rescue. This exercise proved the effectiveness of the sites emergency arrangements for confined space work during the outage and gave a visible demonstration to site personnel of the rescue strategy and techniques.
The control of the work in general for this confined space was to a very high standard.