

What happened?

Conductor preparation activities changed the height and geometry of the conductor stump. With the cap removed for the next phase of work, personnel were required to work adjacent to an open conductor. This created a work-at-height exposure that had not been fully reassessed following the change in conditions.



Primary exposure

The hazard changed during the task. Controls that appeared suitable at the start were no longer sufficient after conductor height and access conditions changed.

What worked well

Stop Work Authority was used effectively: work was stopped, the concern was reported, a forward plan was created and an investigation commenced.

Findings:

- > The hazard evolved during the work; task conditions were no longer as originally planned.
- > Work-at-height controls and contractor Job Safety Analysis (JSA) content were not specific enough for the actual worksite conditions and evolving sequence.
- > Physical worksite verification and “work as done” validation were required before allowing task transition or continuation of high-risk work.
- > The intervention prevented escalation and created a clear pause point for reassessment and investigation.

Good practice guidance:

- > Stop and reassess whenever the worksite changes, including changes in height, geometry, access or exposed openings.
- > Verify work-at-height controls at the worksite, not just on the permit or JSA.
- > Challenge generic controls for high-risk third-party work; they must match the task, location and changing conditions.
- > Confirm edge/open-hole protection, access/egress and rescue arrangements before work continues.
- > Use Stop Work Authority whenever conditions are unsafe, unclear or different from the plan.



Verification of learnings shared and feedback

To ensure this learning leads to meaningful improvement, follow the Plan Do Check Act process and provide your feedback to Step Change in Safety.

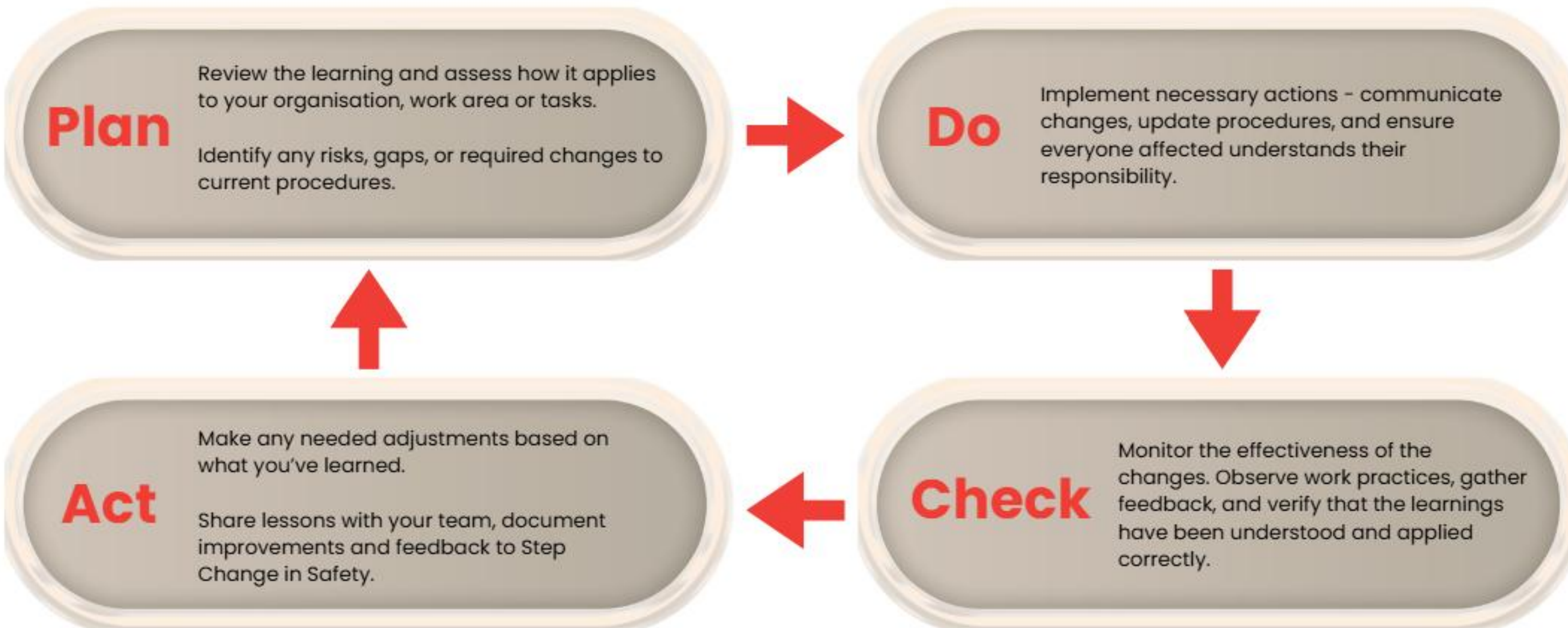


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