SHE ALERT

Fallen Object

Aler → Brief → Close out → HOME SAFE

Date of incident which is raised in days	04.04.2024		Directorate	SEPD	
Region	CMI	Location	Romsey	Classification	HI-Po
What happened ?					

Staff were in the process of changing the insulators on a 132kV tower, the team had taken down the old insulators and had put in place a new set of insulators, when a pulley block fell 30 meters and struck an operative on his safety helmet. There were no injuries sustained as all members of the working party were wearing their correct PPE.

As a reminder, when carrying out work at height please remember these important points:

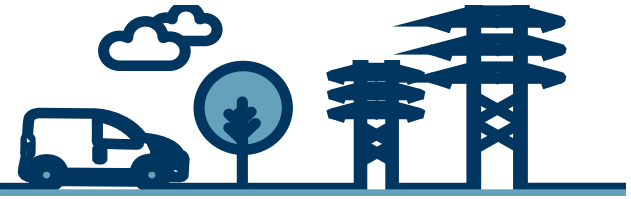
- Ensure Work at Height Hierarchy is followed.
- Ensure Exclusion zones are in place.
- Ensure you are wearing the correct PPE at all times.
- Ensure good communication with all members of the team, if this is not possible then stop works.
- Ensure equipment is inspected and defect free.

SHE BRIEF

Fallen Object

Alert Brief Close out

A B C → HOME SAFE



Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

Staff were in the process of changing the insulators on a 132kV tower, the team had taken down the old insulators and had put in place a new set of insulators, when a pulley block fell 30 meters and struck an operative on his safety helmet. There were no injuries sustained as all members of the working party were wearing their correct PPE.

Actions from Investigation:

- Radio communication has always been available as part of the communication plan, however, were not used on this day. This has now been mandated and added to the new OHL Tower Manual. The radios are fully tethered to the operative working at height.
- The team have trailed head set radios as a way of improving the two-way communication.
- We have ensured that a working supervisor (lead person) is discussed and detailed on the risk assessment each day.
- The OHL Tower contractor's staff have now been put on the immersive training course.
- We have enhanced the current exclusion zone procedure to fall in line industry standard across the UK and updated our procedures, which have been included in the new Tower line manual WI-NET-CAB-168.
- The pulley blocks of this type where suspended while we carried out this investigation (and this was shared with our Transmission colleagues).

SHE CLOSE OUT

Fallen Object

This is what we have learned and done

Incident findings:
The following causes have been ascertained through the investigation and details of learnings that have been implemented.

Immediate Cause
- A roller block fell from height and struck the operative

Underlying Cause
- The weather and environmental conditions contributed to a noisy environment.
- A rope needed to be secured, as it was not previously secured, could have posed a danger in the wind conditions.
- The roller block used was not secured effectively to prevent it from falling. Type used was a hook and gate securing mechanism which is common in the industry.

Root Cause
- A lapse of concentration has caused the operative to enter the exclusion zone while work at height was ongoing.

Root cause Learnings/ Immediate Actions:
- We have enhanced our Tower exclusion zone procedure, to follow good practice examples across the industry and updated our procedures in the Tower line manual WI-NET-CAB-168.
- The pulley blocks of this type where initially suspended while we carried out this investigation (and this was shared with our Transmission colleagues). Following the investigation, we believe there was a degree of human factors at play as to how the pulley was deployed and we are fully confident in this type of pulley. We have now reinstated the use of this pulley type and retrained/refreshed all staff how it should be correctly latched.
- All OHL tower operatives have been briefed with regards to their roles and responsibilities and also Licence to Stop
- Before works recommenced on this site the team attended a re-briefing of the works and exclusion zones.