

SAFETY**ScottishPowerExpress****HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS**

Reference no.: EXP-10-567

Incident: Snapped pole and fall from height

Date: 04/07/2024



OHL Service Partner Snapped Pole and Fall From Height

We have been informed of a serious incident involving a service partner linesperson being injured after the pole they were working on snapped at the base.

The incident is under investigation and more details will be communicated as they become available.

In the meantime, please ensure all staff involved in work at height on wood poles are made aware of the existing guidance referenced in this Express. This Express is aimed at preventing similar incidents occurring and without prejudice to any investigation.



SPEN stock image of OHL work

Guidance:

- [ScottishPower Safety Instruction 32 subsection 32.2.4](#) states:
“Before any wood pole is climbed it shall be sounded, and the condition of the foundations and the effectiveness of any stays examined. No pole found to be excessively decayed, damaged or otherwise considered unstable shall be climbed”
- Prior to being climbed all poles shall be inspected and tested to verify they are safe to climb in accordance with [OHL-17-001 Inspection And Testing Of Wood Poles](#) and accessed in accordance with [OHL-17-005 Pole Access](#) (SPEN internal links).
- When erecting poles refer to [OHL-16-002 Pole Erection](#) for guidance (SPEN internal link).
- The release of conductors under tension should be carried out in accordance with [OHL-27-006 Release of Tension of Conductors and Safe Replacement of Poles](#) after confirming the condition of stays, stay rods, and pole foundations (SPEN internal link).
- When working at height refer to [SMS-04-34 Working at Height on Plant and Structures within SP Energy Networks](#) for general guidance (SPEN internal link).

If you have any doubts about the condition of the pole, stay, or tension on the line STOP work and contact your team leader or supervisor.