



## LINE OF FIRE INCIDENT – POLE FELLING EXCLUSION ZONES

### OVERVIEW

Following a VSI investigation into an incident where a trainee was struck by a pole being felled, this Bulletin is to provide incident learning and actions to prevent further events.

### DETAIL

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024, a working party were installing a service to a Temporary Builders Supply (TBS) and dismantling a LV redundant service. Whilst felling the redundant service pole using a chainsaw, the pole fell in an unexpected direction, and brushed a trainee on their back.

**Exclusion zones:** When felling poles, ensure there is a 360-exclusion zone of two pole lengths in place. It is important that no-one is within the exclusion zone, except for the chainsaw operator.

**Pole felling using a chainsaw (FIG 1) :** At a height of approx. 500mm from ground level, place a sink cut in the pole facing the direction of the planned fall of the pole. The felling cut MUST be applied slightly higher, parallel to the sink cut, cutting from the back of the pole to achieve an even hinge approx. 25mm.

**Equipment :** All chainsaw operatives to check that saws are registered on the small tools database and are maintained and in good working order.

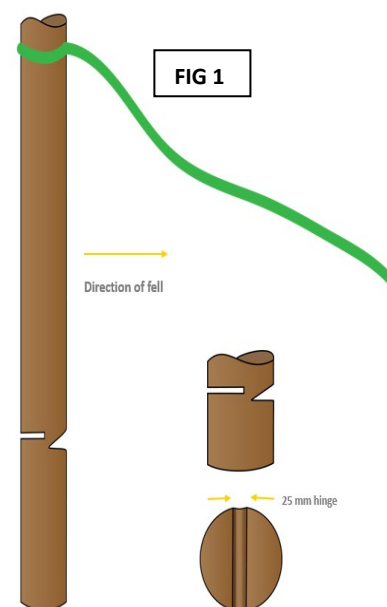
**Personal Supervision :** If you are acting in the role of personally supervising someone or if you are under personal supervision, you must be aware of your responsibilities.

#### (ii) Personal Supervision

**Supervision by a Person** (having adequate technical knowledge, experience and competence) such that they are at all times during the course of the work or testing, continuously observing and in the presence of the person(s) being supervised, with the ability and competence to directly intervene.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- Ensure there is an adequate exclusion zone in place when pole felling.
- Ensure chainsaws and equipment are recorded on the small tools database.
- Ensure anyone under personal supervision is aware of the risks, controls, and their responsibilities.
- For guidance on pole felling methods refer to ECS 01-1009.



Primary communication via Line Manager complete by (X)	1 week	x	2 weeks	1 month
Additional communication (X)	Learning points		1 <sup>st</sup> 15	Team Brief slide

Line management must ensure appropriate employees understand the content of this document within the timescale shown.  
This document is subject to compliance audits after the communication deadline.