



Safety Bulletin

To: All operational staff and contractors
Issued by: Simon Keightley, Safety Manager
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Near Miss - Failure of Overhead Line Conductor Drum

One of our overhead line teams were preparing to pull aluminium conductor from the back of a three drum trailer when one of the cable drums, weighing around 560kg structurally failed. Thankfully, none of our colleagues were in the 'line of fire' and no one was hurt. An image of the failed drum can be seen below.



The wooden drum failed due to severe timber rot. An examination of the drum after the failure showed that the rot was visible and evident.

Our conductor suppliers have processes in place to ensure that when drums are delivered to us, they are structurally sound. However, the failed drum had been delivered and stored outside at one of our depots for several years. Our logistics team have checked all conductor drums in the central warehouse and are checking drums stored at other logistics locations.

What should you do?

- Before handling or lifting conductor drums:
 - Always check each drum for signs of rot or structural damage.
- If you see or suspect rot or damage:
 - Place a warning notice on the drum.
 - Inspect other drums in the surrounding area.
 - Report it using the EcoOnline system.
- When handling or lifting conductor drums:
 - Create an exclusion zone around the lifting area.
 - Stay out of the 'line of fire'.