

Shared Learning Report

Incident: Linesmen receives cut to eyebrow from conductor off drum

Date/Time: 01-05-24 10.30

Location: 4TM 47 EPZ

Category: NLTl

NG IMS: 586206

Incident Description

- Whilst pulling conductor on the top phase the team were on the EPZ of a tensioner site for the section Tower 4TM 47 to 4TM 34.
- A drum of conductor came to the end, the Linesmen was instructed to pull off the last few turns of conductor (slack) ready to apply a stocking to connect up.
- When pulling the conductor off the unbraked drum the Linesmen applied additional force causing the drum to spin and the remaining wraps of conductor climbed out of the confines of the drum and dropped over the side of the drum hitting the linesmen.
- The linesmen was wearing his safety eyewear.
- The linesmen was hit on the right side of his head/eyebrow (potentially hitting his safety glasses) causing a cut of approximately 40mm above his right eye.



Weather Conditions

- Cloud light winds.

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Senior Mgr. Informed: J Burns

Immediate Action Taken

- Linesmen had initial first aid on site then was taken to hospital
- An investigation into the incident has commenced
- An alert was issued and TBT'd to all projects

Morrison Managers

- Jason Burns
- Mick Hollywell
- Daljinder Singh

Follow Up Action required

Investigation Report to determine:

- Cause of incident
- Contributing factors to the incident
- Initial, Root and Underlying causes

National Grid Managers

- Martin Bage
- Phil Webb

Lessons Learnt

- **Root causes identified in investigation.**
- Linesman used incorrect force to rotate drum.
- Unfamiliar with task – the linesman was unfamiliar with the drum and stand configuration used in this task.
- Hazard of rotating the drum at speed not identified in the RA or briefed to the team at setting to work.
- No manual braking system on drum stands

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Executive Summary of Report

A line team were working on an Equipotential Zone (EPZ) at tower 4TM 47. The team were pulling conductor from 4TM 47 to 4TM 34 with a puller tensioner machine and six drums of conductor on the EPZ. Four members were on the EPZ to assist with the pull.

As a drum of conductor came to the end, the pull was paused to allow for the drum to be 'changed' over. Approximately five turns of conductor were left on the drum, one linesmen pulled the conductor drum back towards the tensioner machine at the back of the EPZ and KA went to assist and spun the drum in a clockwise direction to assist the person pulling the conductor off the drum.

As a line worker pulled down on the drum to rotate it a turn of conductor lifted out of the drum and struck the line worker on the helmet.

This resulted in the line worker receiving a cut to his eyebrow over his right eye, caused by the conductor catching his helmet and his safety glasses.

Immediate Causes

- Conductor coil rising out of confines of drum and catching KA on his helmet.

Root Causes

- Linesman used incorrect force to rotate drum.
- Unfamiliar with task – the linesman was unfamiliar with the drum and stand configuration used in this task.
- Hazard of rotating the drum at speed not identified in the RA or briefed to the team at setting to work.
- No manual braking system on drum stands.

Actions Identified

Braking system available for drum stands.

Hydraulic motor can be left connected whilst removing conductor on drum change over. This offers resistance when pulling off the conductor and would prevent the drum spinning too quickly.

Investigation Complete Date

05-06-24

Lessons Learnt

Key learning:

Drum rotation should be controlled by mechanical means when pulling off final turns of conductor.