

## A Cheshire-based electrical transmission company has been fined £240,000 after a man was left paralysed from the chest down after a fall at work

### What happened?

A linesman had been demolishing and replacing electricity pylons when he fell more than 30 feet leaving him paralysed from the chest down.

Previous work to loosen bolts on the tower known as “bolt cracking”, was undertaken by another previous team. This work had not been risk assessed and there were no systems in place to effectively record and communicate what they had actually done.

The linesman unknowingly attached his fall protection lanyard to a diagonal steel section that was only securely bolted in place at its uppermost fixing. As he moved around the tower, the steel section he was attached to dropped into a vertical position, causing his lanyard to fall loose, resulting in him falling to the ground.

An investigation by the HSE found that the company failed to ensure that the work at height was properly planned or appropriately supervised. The HSE also found that the company had not considered the work at height hierarchy as part of its planning and had not assessed the risks associated with task.

Furthermore, they found that the company had not adequately resourced the task in line with its own safety documentation and had failed to put in place a process for transferring work between teams and ensuring safety critical information was recorded and communicated effectively.

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