



Conduit lifted in switchyard

WHAT HAPPENED?

A project team were pulling back a 19-core control cable in a 1-metre concrete trench and had attached a section of 20mm 2.5m long plastic conduit to help direct the cable. Whilst pulling the new cable, a worker noticed the conduit bending upwards against a hard barrier that was above shoulder height and called out to the other team members.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- When the other team member called out, the worker with his back towards the conduit lowered it to the ground.
- A Take 5 was conducted to discuss the event and it was reported to management.
- A team talk was conducted later that day with the wider project team to discuss the near miss.
- The event was shared with all other team members at the monthly Inform safety meeting.



Figure 1 - Yellow markup is simulating the conduit snake proximity to 220kv disconnector

ROOT CAUSE

Project team members did not control and monitor the end of the cable taped on to the conduit snake when it was pulled free from the trench and hit the blue barrier. They relied on gravity to hold the conduit at ground level.

LEARNINGS

- All equipment, plant, cable snakes, cables and conduits must be fully controlled in switchyards to ensure they do not rise up above head height or encroach the minimum approach distances for that switchyard.
- Consider blind spots, unintended consequences and request assistance when required.

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