



Dropped Tower Bolt

WHAT HAPPENED?

A home occupier was mowing their lawns on a property adjacent to a transmission tower. The day prior, the service provider had been working at the tower. The mower went over a tower bolt, and the bolt then contacted their leg, leaving a mark, and fortunately not requiring medical treatment. The tower was part of a dismantling project. The member of the public contacted Transpower to inform of the incident. Transpower then informed the service provider. The neighbouring property was not included in the Primary Hazard Zone (PHZ) due to site constraints.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

The service provider Construction Manager visited the home occupier to check on their wellbeing and commenced an investigation.

ROOT CAUSE

- The Line Mechanic who dropped the tower bolt failed to inform their Supervisor which prevented the appropriate action from being taken.
- PHZ management was challenging, with the neighbouring property included in the nominal PHZ, yet the structure itself was not within the property.
- Planning of the work did not effectively account for adjacent properties requiring inclusion within the PHZ.

LEARNINGS

1. Inform your site supervisor or team leader immediately when there has been an accidental drop which has landed in a neighbouring property so that a corrective action can be taken.
2. Contact all property owners within the nominal PHZ prior to works, to advise the need to exclude people from the PHZ where objects could fall.

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