330 -UNCONTROLLED HEAVY VEHICLE ACCESS OVER UNRATED DUCTING

Background

On 30 April 2025, during jetting preparation works at a Substation, a heavy vehicle was brought onto site under supervision. Multiple activities were taking place on site that day and due to an extended drop zone set up for another project, the vehicle had to take a different route. However, neither the original nor the alternative route was supported by a formal vehicle movement plan, and key project personnel were not consulted before the change was made.

The heavy vehicle crossed an unapproved section of concrete ducting, which failed under the weight of the rear wheels. This caused the vehicle to become stuck and concrete debris to fall onto substation cables. No injuries occurred, and initial inspections found no visible damage to electrical assets.

Safety Issues

Competency:

Although the worker had the correct certification, they didn't have enough real experience working on site, without regular, hands-on practice, important safety knowledge can be forgotten or missed.

Poor Communication and Planning:

The safety plan required the team to communicate with others on site, however this didn't happen. There was no discussion with other work crews about vehicle movements, and no one checked if traffic management was needed. This lack of communication meant important safety steps were missed.

There was no planned vehicle route in place before the work started. No written plan was prepared to show where the vehicle would go, which meant risks related to vehicle movement were not properly considered or managed.

RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Communication with all interested parties
- Experience is an essential part of competency
- Adequate task pre-planning

For more information contact safety@programmed.com.au

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Report all incidents and near misses

Please display on *Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.*