

## Crane Incident at Didcot substation

### What happened?

The lift was carried out in a highly confined area with equipment surrounding the crane, including a busbar positioned directly behind the boom. National Grid personnel were operating a MEWP in close proximity, leaving no margin for error or unexpected movement. The crane operator retracted the boom without direct instruction from the lift supervisor, resulting in an impact with an adjacent busbar. No injuries were reported, but damage occurred to the busbar connection.

### How are the people involved?

The crane operator acted without supervision or clear communication from the lift supervisor, leading to insufficient monitoring of the crane's movement.

### Why did it happen?

The operator may have felt pressured to expedite the operation by multitasking, which contributed to the incident and distracted them from ensuring adequate clearance to the busbar.

### Actions to prevent a reoccurrence

- Conduct toolbox talks to reinforce the responsibilities of supervisors and lift teams.
- Review and update lift plans and risk assessments to ensure clarity on movement control.
- GGR Group are exploring implementing a 'Code of Conduct' for contract lifts to outline expected behaviours and standard for all operatives.



### Key learning points

- The importance of clear, real-time communication during crane operations.
- The need for strict supervision and adherence to safety protocols in confined working areas.
- Recognising the risks associated with multitasking under pressure and ensuring adequate safety clearances.