

# Ratchet Dropped from Height Hits Worker on Elbow

## EVENT

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020, while engaged in works to replace rusted tower step bolts, an ElectroNet worker was struck on the elbow by a ratchet dropped by a worker positioned further aloft on a transmission structure.

Initially the worker did not think that any injury had occurred, however swelling later developed on his elbow, along with pain. An x-ray was carried out and no fracture was found, however medical staff recommended resting the arm for a period of 1 week. The worker has since made a full return to work.



## LEARNINGS

Workers were not considering the 3-dimensional aspect of an exclusion zone when positioning on towers. An exclusion zone should not be considered to be the area on the ground only.

Tool tethering had resulted in problems previously (which were unreported) and teams were not adhering to the requirements of TP HSW 01.02 Clause 3.11 which states 'Measures to prevent falling objects are to be in place, including tool and equipment tethering and the use of exclusion/drop zones below workers and when working aloft'. The use of lanyards was immediately re-instated. The suitability of tool tethering equipment is being reviewed and alternative equipment items may be introduced.

## EDUCATION

ElectroNet have developed and presented educational material, in the form of a powerpoint presentation and video links, on the potential harm from dropped items. This information is available to be shared on request.

