



Excavator slide

WHAT HAPPENED?

An excavator was traversing down the side of a slope under an Orion 11kv overhead line and slid approximately 1.5m on the wet grass. The boom of the machine swung and encroached the MAD of the Orion line. A safety observer was present, and barriers and warning signs were also installed underneath the overhead line.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- The machine was stopped and the site assessed
- A different access way was used from then on
- Transpower and Orion were notified

ROOT CAUSE

The access being used was not one of the initial routes agreed on in the job planning. However, the machine became 'trapped' by the site works and it was decided to use this alternate route as an accessway. The line clearance was tight even in ideal conditions and a flatter route was available by removing a section of fence.

LEARNINGS

- Use the safest route even if it takes longer
- Obtain a MAA if the MAD cannot be guaranteed

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