



Tibia Fracture Above Ankle

WHAT HAPPENED?

During an under clearance site visit the team had tried not to drive off any formed accessways due to the large amount of rain in the area before their arrival. After identifying that the site of interest was mid span, the team proceeded to walk across two paddocks.

As they crossed the first paddock they encountered a wire fence. Normal practice would be to climb up one side and down the other, but this fence had a hot wire on one side with a nominal 300mm standoff. They had to climb to the top of fence and jump down over the hot wire. This occurred without incident. On their return crossing this fence one team member landed awkwardly when he jumped down and sustained a fracture to the right tibia.



LEARNINGS

- When accessing properties, mapped/ formed tracks should be used where possible even if this means not taking the most direct route to the work site. It is better to walk further and use available gate ways rather than climb fences
- Climbing of fences should be avoided where possible especially those with electric fence attachments. If fences with hot wires must be climbed, then mitigations should be put in place.
- Possible mitigations include the use of electric fence testers to check if the hot wire is live and placing non-conductive covers over the live wire/tape to protect against electric shock.

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