TRANSPOWER

SAFETY ALERT!



Failure to Maintain Continuous Attachment on a Tower Structure

WHAT HAPPENED?

On 22 July 2026, a worker was observed climbing a transmission tower while using only one hook of their twin-lanyard Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS), with the second hook attached to their harness rather than the tower structure.



The worker continued climbing in this manner to approximately 5.0metres above ground level before being challenged by a peer, this was ignored at the time and then at approximately 9.4metres the worker was challenged and stopped by a second peer. The worker then established continuous two-hook attachment and continued climbing.



No injury or damage occurred; however, the worker was exposed to a potential fall from approximately 9.4 metres. The investigation confirmed that suitable climbing equipment was available and there were no environmental or equipment-related factors preventing continuous attachment.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- The worker was stopped, corrected and subsequently removed from the tower and climbing duties while the incident was investigated.
- The team received refresher training on working at heights requirements, with expectations reinforced for peer intervention and reporting of unsafe behaviour. Following the investigation, additional controls were introduced, including a double-hook safety check and targeted field observations.

ROOT CAUSE

The immediate cause was a failure to follow the established continuous-attachment requirements while climbing. The investigation also identified that a previous similar breach had been addressed at a supervisory level but was not formally reported or escalated. This meant an opportunity for further coaching, competency reassessment and intervention was missed.

LEARNINGS

- Continuous attachment must be maintained at all times when climbing a tower.
- All personnel are expected to stop and challenge unsafe behaviour when critical controls are not being followed.
- Unsafe acts and near misses must be formally reported and escalated, even when corrected immediately.
- Pre-climb checks and ongoing field observations are important to verify that critical working-at-height controls are consistently applied.
- A double-hook safety check has been introduced to reinforce continuous attachment before climbing.

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