

safety alert

Tree Contact

Electrix Event Number

E15935

The Issue

A tree contacted the Transmission line

What Happened

While undertaking the removal of approximately 150 pine trees in a line corridor a trees being felled has inadvertently contacted one phase of a Transmission line.



Findings

- Changed from supervising a contractor to undertaking the felling of trees not discussed or managed
- Negotiation for tree removal started 2008 with agreement to fell not until 2014
- Steepness and landowner site restrictions meant plant could not be used or fences removed
- Trees within x2 MAD line clearance felled without all the controls in place
- Fall distance trees are not covered by the Tree Regulations

Immediate Actions

- Operation suspended
- Investigation completed
- Vegetation workshop addressing concerns undertaken

Root Cause

Number of contributing factors were identified which allowed for the inadvertent contact of the line.

- Right equipment not used
- Work site not set up properly
- Procedure/instruction not followed
- Inadequate Communication
- Inadequate supervision
- Poor environmental conditions

Learnings

Tree threats to Transpower assets will continue to exist in the current regulatory regime. Sound management is essential for negotiating access and appropriate vegetation management options.

Processes must be followed and when changes occur a stop think and/or hold point should be undertaken to ensure activities remain within the scope of approved procedures and work processes, and are safe and meet both Electrix and Transpower needs.

For more information please contact QSE Assessor Campbell Hardy, 021 221 2779.

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Safety Alerts are advisory only. They contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported and the key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event