TRANSPOWER

FIRST ALERT

Date 22 January 2015

ELECTRIC SHOCK

EVENT

An ARL Tower Refurbishment employee was operating an air-assisted blasting unit on the top arm of a 220kV tower when he felt a sudden electric shock and tingling sensation in his right arm. At that time another operator working in the lower body section of the tower observed what appeared to be electrical tracking on the insulators of the cross arm that the employee was working on. At the beginning of the day staff had assessed the tower for signs of electrical tracking through the insulators and noted nothing was occurring.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Employee taken to hospital for observation as a precautionary measure
- All work on site has been suspended and the scene secured. Drug testing instigated as standard operating procedures for potentially serious harm incidents.
- Until the investigation is completed the following restrictions will be put in place:
    - No work activity on Cross Arms which involves the use of water.
    - Work activities on 110kv and flat top towers involving the use of water are only to be carried out below the bottom conductor.
    - Any requests for exemption should be referred to Transpower for a risk based assessment in conjunction with the Service Provider seeking the exemption.

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