



Malleny Piggery LV Incident

Following a report from a member of public of a pole on the ground near Malleny House Piggery, Edinburgh & Borders District dispatched a resource (craftsman joiner) to investigate. The joiner found an LV pole fallen over but partially suspended/held by the stay wire and adjacent trees (see picture).

In difficult conditions the joiner wrongly determined that the LV overhead line was not live. The inexperience of the joiner and the failure to test at the point of work resulted in the line remaining live and the job being put into PowerOn delog.

Three days later the owner of the Piggery reported the pole down again. This time linesmen were sent to investigate and the LV overhead line was found to be live. The line was then isolated and made safe.

A local investigation found the root cause to be the joiner's failure to recognise that the LV line was an 'I' hazard as defined in [OPSAF-04-021](#) 'Operational Hazard Management Procedure'. The only way to prove the line not live is by testing using an approved tester. He could not test the line himself, therefore, he should have remained on site to guard the LV line until other staff arrived to take over.

Definition of 'I' Hazard - An asset condition that requires immediate attention because there is a significant risk of injury or unauthorised contact with live conductors.

Recommendations and action points

- All staff involved in fault work should understand the responsibilities imposed on them by OPSAF-04-021 – (*Operational hazard management procedure*)
- All staff are reminded of their responsibilities under [OCC-04-013](#) (*Actions to be taken on receipt of a report of a dangerous incident on an overhead line*) which requires urgency when dealing with low or grounded conductors. For example the DCC agent taking the call shall gather all relevant information and pass it to the Incident Controller or HV Control Person immediately. The HV Control Person shall consider de-energising the circuit, the nearest resource to the fault shall be dispatched to site, and the person dispatched shall go to site without delay.
- Team leaders involved in fault work should be aware of the competencies of emergency response staff so that they are aware of any limitations when dispatching staff to attend incidents which are not their normal work.

