

Work taking place on unsecured poles

This safety express highlights two major events which were identified recently during site & operational safety audits.

The first picture shows a pole that fell onto a service partner's vehicle during overhead line refurbishment. The pole narrowly missed the auditor and permit holder who were stood at the front of the vehicle.

The pole was to be replaced and a deep excavation had been made adjacent to the old pole. No support had been attached to the pole even though a HIAB was on site.

The second major non-conformance incident (*picture 2*) was a linesman undertaking work on an 'H pole' (substation pole) from climbing irons.

On inspection it was highlighted that the pole had not been sufficiently backfilled nor the ground compacted. The structure was further destabilised by the adjacent open cable trench and joint hole.

Both incidents are currently under investigation by the service partner company and district representatives. Any relevant lessons learnt will be shared accordingly.



Action: SPEN Team Leaders and Line Managers;

To review the requirements within the documents below, with all appropriate staff.

- [OHL-27-006](#) (*hyperlink to document*)
Release of Tension of Conductors and Safe Replacement of Poles
- [OHL-17-005](#) (*hyperlink to document*)
Pole Access
- [OHL-15-001](#) (*hyperlink to document*)
Excavations and Reinstatement Requirements for Pole and Stay Holes
- [OHL-16-002](#) (*hyperlink to document*)
Pole Erection

Action: Contracting staff to review their equivalent procedures and guidance