

UNIMOG BOND FAILURE

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Emergency recovery work was being carried out on the 4YX route following the parting of some Brown Porcelain insulators.

During a standard winching operation, the inner strands of the winch bond sheared shaking the tower arms and causing a loud noise. This resulted in the load being held purely by the outer strands.

Following a further inspection it was deemed safe to lower the load to ground.



KEY LEARNING POINTS:

- Investigation of the incident has determined that all the Unimog winch bonds have a minimum bending radius of 280mm (11"), but are being used with 10" and 4" blocks. This is likely to have resulted in significant fatigue of the bond such that major failure has occurred.
- Further investigation of other Unimog winch bonds have confirmed similar fatigue.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- ETAM OHL Managers shall ensure the action below;
- Stop use of all Unimogs with immediate effect.
- Review all other winches to ensure suitability with our operations.
- 4 Unimogs (2 North, 2 South) to be re-wired and ready for use by the end of the month under a new temporary procedure.
- Review initial specification of equipment to determine fitness for purpose.
- Temporary hire replacements to be sought for use in an emergency until the end of the month.

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