

PANEL OF INQUIRY

ScottishPower *Express*

Reference no.: EXP-14-082

Incident: 3rd Party Fatal Accident

Date: 17/01/2015



3rd Party fatal accident, HIAB arm made contact with 11kV overhead line

On January 17th 2015, at Holme Farm, Marsh Lane, Ince, Chester, tragically a third party HIAB operator was fatally injured in an incident when the arm of the HIAB made contact with an Energy Networks 11kV overhead line.



Following the incident a Panel of Inquiry was set up to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and identify whether there were any learning points for Energy Networks.

The investigation established that, in 2013, during a line inspection of an adjacent section of line, spoil had been found under the line. The landowner was made aware verbally of the dangers of such practices and the spoil was cleared.

ACTION POINTS

The purpose of this Express is to highlight that, when any incidents such as inappropriate working practices or storage of materials, equipment, etc. under/adjacent to overhead lines are identified, it is a requirement that written guidance is issued to the appropriate person(s) or company.

This written guidance may be in the form of the standard GS6 Guidance Form, or some other suitable SPEN headed paperwork. A copy of the guidance issued is to be sent to your local H & S Advisor. If you do not feel competent to issue written guidance, report the situation to the relevant District Operational Manager.

If the situation poses an immediate risk to life, you should take all reasonable steps to reduce the level of risk, report the situation to the relevant Control Person and remain on-site until assistance arrives to take the appropriate action to make the situation safe.