



FOR ISSUE TO NETWORKS

SHE ALERT

Tree falls over road across Low Voltage line

What happened?

A Tree Cutting team was sent to fell trees in proximity to a low voltage line. The team attempted to fell a large (25m) Oak tree using the two rope method. Owing to the poor quality of the felling cut, the tree fell at 90 degrees to the intended direction, causing it to fall across a minor road and hit a pole, bringing the wires down.

This incident is now under investigation and the key learning points will be issued when available.



What action is required?

All tree cutting staff are to be reminded of the following:

- Prior to 2 rope felling taking place, a Supervisor must approve the works. The operation must be witnessed by the Supervisor or the approval noted on the Risk Assessment.
- The weight bias and wind conditions must be assessed. If the site conditions have changed following the initial site visit then the team must reassess the site and the associated hazards.
- If the job can not be carried out safely then a more suitable alternative to 2 rope felling should be implemented.
- The primary function of the 2 ropes is to ensure that, if the felling operation goes wrong, then there is no possibility that the tree could fall onto conductors or any other electrical apparatus. One of the ropes can be used to assist the felling but only if there is a locking mechanism to prevent the rope slipping backwards.

Please refer to the following guidance documents for more information.

- **WI-PS-735 Work Instruction for Tree Cutting Works Adjacent to Live Overhead Line**
- **FISA Safety guide 301 Using petrol driven chainsaws**
- **FISA Safety guide 307 Chainsaw felling of large trees**
- **FISA Safety guide 310 Use of winches in directional felling & takedown**

Communication by (✓)	LSG		Notice board		Tool-box talk	✓	Team brief	
Communication complete by (✓)	1 week	✓	2 weeks		1-month		2-months	

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