



Safety Alert – 2020 09



For Immediate Cascade

4th August 2020 INTERNAL

Contractor seriously injured in fall from the rear of a flatbed lorry

On Monday 27 July 2020, a BHE sub-contractor was seriously injured whilst unloading 108kg rolls of steel chain link fencing from a flatbed lorry. The accident is currently under investigation, but initial findings indicate that one of the craftsman's gloves became caught in the sharp edges of the fence. The craftsman was pulled from the truck to the ground approximately 1m below injuring his head, shoulder and elbow.



In a second incident, a BHE employee had returned to a depot with a GoTrack (tracked vehicle) loaded on a low trailer. Our injured colleague was on the deck of the GoTrack throwing items to the ground, approximately 2.4m below, when he fell resulting in a fracture to his right lower leg.



Managers should ensure a copy of this brief is issued to all staff who do not have access to email as soon as possible

Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of every shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work



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These incidents are similar to one which occurred in Northern Powergrid in 2018 when a Linesman suffered a fractured leg after falling from a vehicle. The linesman was throwing a set of insulator into a skip, which was approximately 1.5m away from the lorry. The arcing horn on the base of the insulator set caught his overalls and this momentum caused him to fall from the vehicle.



This brief serves as a reminder to look out for the hazards associated with routine tasks where it is all too easy to underestimate the potential for injury. It's the simple and routine tasks that often catch us out.

In relation to working off the back of vehicles:-

- **Edge protection on our vehicles is there to prevent accidental falls from height.**
- **Use mechanical means to load and unload where available.**
- **If it is necessary to lower the edge protection for any reason, off load from the ground where possible.**
- **If the edge protection has to be lowered whilst personnel are working on our vehicles, a documented risk assessment with adequate additional control measures is required and must be in place prior to carrying out the work.**

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