

# HSE Alert Form



Alert Number: **2015.08**

<b>eSafe No</b>	1120104	<b>Location</b>	Woongarra Scenic Drive, Bargara (Bundaberg)	<b>Date</b>	15 January 2015
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## Description of Hazard/Incident *(What happened?)*

Metal parts of borer/lifter crane contacted overhead bare low voltage conductors resulting in neutral conductor falling to ground.

## Extent of Impact *(Details of injury, environmental harm, equipment damage, etc.)*

No injuries or equipment damage.

## Key Facts *(What are the key facts ?)*

A crew was tasked to pre-bore a hole in preparation for an upcoming new in-line HV/LV pole installation. The job was scoped prior, and recognising the potential to encounter rock in the area, it was decided to pre-drill the hole to avoid any issues on the day of the pole installation. The scoping considered overhead three phase bare low voltage mains as a potential risk to effectively manage when boring the pole hole, but would not prevent the borer from safely pre-drilling the hole with adequate clearances.

On the day of the incident, the crew completed a Daily/Task Risk Management (DTRMP) with the Work Description "Bore Hole Under Live LV", "borer lifter operation" as a specific Work Activity, Identified Onsite Hazard as "overhead live low voltage conductors" and Controls to be Applied being "maintain exclusion zones" and "Safety Observer in place".

The operator successfully completed two attempts at boring out the hole and had removed the auger and swung to the side to remove soil from the auger. On the third attempt at about 800mm depth, the auger teeth ground into solid rock. The operator raised the boom to remove the auger from the hole. The Safety Observer at this point believed the borer was stationary and was in the process of moving to a better position to observe the work as overcast conditions were changing and glare was an issue. Both the Safety Observer and operator did not communicate the change in position or the raising of the crane boom higher for an inspection of the auger. The borer operator raised the boom to allow for inspection of the auger teeth for any damage. The Safety Observer looked up at the last minute to observe the two open claws of the pole grab of the borer contacting the LV mains. At that same instant a flashover occurred and as a result the neutral LV main fell to the ground. The crew safely isolated the low voltage mains and carried out repairs to reinstate the neutral conductor.

## Actions *(Information on corrective actions implemented that may prevent harm and or assist others in preventing a similar occurrence)*

Work Group Leaders, Supervisors, Line Managers and Contractors are asked to review and discuss this HSE Alert with field staff and undertake the following actions.

- Review the Field Instruction "[Roles and Responsibilities of a Safety Observer](#)" and reinforce where employees are required to undertake the role of a dedicated Safety Observer for a Safety Observer Zone, the Safety Observer should not carry out any other work or function that compromises their role as a Safety Observer to maintain exclusion zones when working near overhead and underground electric lines in accordance with Section 4 of the Electrical Safety Code of Practice 2010
- Reinforce that keeping ourselves and our mates safe relies on Plant Operators and dedicated Safety Observers maintaining constant and effective communication with each other at all times when preparing to operate machinery in proximity to exclusion zones. Reinforce the need to effectively communicate with the equipment/plant Operators and prior to any Safety Observer position change or activity that the Operator is to cease work until the Safety Observer is in position and confirms complete focus and safe to proceed.

## Contact for further Information

<b>Name:</b> Craig Harris	<b>Position:</b> Lines Manager Fraser/Burnett
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