

HSE Alert Form



Alert Number: **2015.18**

eSafe No	INC -1121705	Location	Buchanan Road, Townsville	Date	29 March 2015
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Description of Hazard/Incident (What happened?)

While installing a mid-span strain pole, an earthed and 'under access' HV conductor was cut and it fell to the ground, brushing against a live low voltage conductor on the way down.

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

There was no injury to personnel or damage to the conductors or other equipment.

Key Facts (What are the key facts?)

No final conclusions have been drawn as to the cause/s of this incident. In the interests of safeguarding our employees, we request everyone to read this information to reinforce our safety focus on controls and to improve our safety awareness.

- The HV conductor had to be cut and extended to reach the cross arm on the new pole. After completing the work on the road side and centre phase, one side of the footpath phase was terminated. The jack & cum-a-long was then removed, releasing the unterminated side which resulted in the conductor falling to the ground.
- Two workers were in the same MEWP working aloft and the appointed Safety Observer had clear vision of the work.
- There was no discussion between the Safety Observer and the crew prior to working aloft as to the specifics of how they were going to complete the task.
- The height of the pole was 17 metres therefore the crew working aloft was further away from the Safety Observer than usual.
- Noise levels onsite when the works were being undertaken were not excessive.
- There was no discussion between the two employees in the MEWP prior to the cum-a-long being released.
- Just prior to the incident the Safety Observer noticed the conductor moving and called out to the crew aloft, but they did not hear him until the conductor had fallen.
- The Supervisor was notified of the incident after the site works had been completed.

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

Managers and Supervisors to:

- Reinforce the importance of situational awareness, and open and effective communication between all parties on site.
- Reinforce the responsibility of a Safety Observer as per [P53H05B03: Appoint a Safety Observer](#) and [BS001401R112: Roles and Responsibilities of a Safety Observer](#).
- Reinforce the importance of the Safety Observer being positioned within visual and audible range of the crew working aloft. Additional equipment may be necessary in situations where there is a potential barrier to communication.
- Reinforce the requirement to notify supervisor / manager of an incident in a timely manner as per [ES000704R100: Single Incident Management Framework](#) & [ES000309R102. Manage Statutory Incident Reporting Requirements \(Reference\)](#)

Contact for further Information

Name: Scott Fraley	Position: Lines Manager Herbert
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