

# HSE Alert Form



Alert Number: 2015.17

<b>eSafe No</b>	INC-1122261	<b>Location</b>	Mount Gordon Road, Mount Isa	<b>Date</b>	7 May 2015
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**Description of Hazard/Incident** *(What happened?)*

Motor vehicle accident. Both vehicles sustained extensive damage.

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

Passenger in the Ergon Energy vehicle was airlifted to Mount Isa Base Hospital and has been diagnosed with a fractured L2 vertebra.  
The other occupants of the vehicles sustained minor injuries.

**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.

**Background:**

- Substations maintenance crew was in transit to Gunpowder Substation as part of maintenance work being done.
- Crew consisted of a Technical Service Person 4, and a 2nd year Apprentice.
- The Technical Service Person (who was the passenger at the time of the collision) has an Open MR licence.
- The Apprentice gained his Provisional Licence approximately two years previously, however, this was not known to the other crew members.
- The crew members took turns driving each day.



**On the day of the incident:**

- The crew commenced work at 05:00, with the Apprentice taking his turn to drive.
- Whilst cresting a hill the vehicle being driven by the crew collided with another vehicle coming in the opposite direction. Collision occurred on a stretch of unsealed road.

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

Managers and Supervisors to communicate to staff that

- Employees' licence status and conditions must be communicated to their immediate work group where operation of a motor vehicle is relevant to their employment.
- P plate drivers ensure the P Plate sign is displayed on the Ergon Energy fleet vehicle.

Managers and Supervisors ensure understanding of [Operation of Motor Vehicles Reference ES000901R171 Ver 4](#) in particular:

**8.11 Driving on Unsealed Roads/Off Road**

Ergon Energy has the following standard:

**8.11.1 Unsealed dry roads**

- Speed limits on all unsealed dry roads will remain as sign-posted or less as conditions dictate, for safe driving;
- Where possible the most experienced driver should take control of the vehicle; and
- Where vehicles are fitted with 4WD, consideration should be given to engaging 4x4 HIGH modes.

**Contact for further Information**

<b>Name:</b> John Cass	<b>Position:</b> General Manager Substations
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