

## SIGNIFICANT ELECTRICAL SAFETY INCIDENT ADVISE



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DATE OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT: 09/04/2002 DATE OF INITIAL TRANSMISSION: 17/04/2002	ESAA NUMBER: ESAA DATE OF TRANSMISSION:

**Brief description of accident/incident (include voltage):**

A Western Power Distribution Worker could have been seriously injured or killed when a pole pulling chain snapped under tension and the end of the chain just missed his head.

A line crew had the task of removing an old six metre Wandoo pole from the ground. A hydraulic pole-puller was set up next to the pole and a new 13mm chain was attached around the pole.

The pole-puller was started up. The force applied by the pole-puller was of a greater capacity than the safe working load of the chain. Consequently when the pole did not give, a link in the chain broke and the chain recoiled off the pole narrowly missing a team member's head.

The 13mm chain is the incorrect size chain for the hydraulic pole-puller. Even so, the team members on site understood this was the size of chain for the pole-puller. Fleet Services reported that the 13mm chain is too small in load capacity to be used with the pole-puller.

Investigations revealed that this type of incident has happened before but details were never reported to the appropriate people.

**Extent of injury/damage**

Nil.

**Local action taken:**

The pole-puller is being modified to have a 20mm Herc-alloy chain, 20mm hammerlock and 29mm regular oblong link fitted to it.

Other pole-pullers are to be inspected to determine the chain size fitted. Any pole-pullers with 13mm chains are to be tagged 'Out-of Service' and sent to Fleet Services for modification.

All plant and associated equipment failures must be reported to Fleet Services promptly.

**Additional comments:**

Nil.

**FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:**

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