

ESAA



**ELECTRICITY
SUPPLY
ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA
LIMITED**

ACN 052 416 083

ESSA
Secretariat
PO Box A2492
Sydney South NSW 2000

Telephone 02 9261 0141
Facsimile 02 9261 3153
e-mail thew@esaa.com.au

UNITED ENERGY
Health & Safety
Locked Bag 13
Mount Waverley Vic 3149

Telephone 03 9265 7760
Facsimile 03 9265 7855



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DATE OF INCIDENT:	22/05/02	UE NUMBER:	2002 - 004

ESAA 25/2002

Brief description of accident/incident (include voltage):

A fault crew were dispatched to assess and then repair any damage to the High Voltage (HV) and Low Voltage (LV) structures after a car hit a pole.

The crew made the site safe and conducted a safety assessment. They then isolated the HV & LV conductors. The crew decided to leave the public lighting switchwire in the work alive to maintain the public lighting system.

Whilst one of the crew members was applying the HV earth to the middle of the conductor span, he received an electric shock from the switchwire, resulting in a fall of approximately 5 metres from the bucket. The lineworker was wearing his harness at the time of the incident.

At this stage the incident is still under investigation.

Extent of injury/damage:

The lineworker sustained severe bruising to his chest and upper body region and is currently in hospital under observation and is undergoing further tests.

Local action taken:

- The work crew called an ambulance, administered first aid and advised the United Energy control and dispatch centre.
- The site was made safe.
- United Energy, the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI) and WorkSafe Victoria attended the site and commenced an investigation into the incident.
- After the onsite investigation, required repairs were completed and supply restored.

Additional comments:

United Energy employees and contractors shall:

- Whenever working at height ensure that harnesses are worn and attached to lanyards at all times.
- Whenever working on or when there a risk of inadvertent contact with live assets ensure that a safety observer is appointed and utilised and that all appropriate mats/hard covers and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is utilised.
- Ensure crew members participate in and document pre-work safety checks/Job Safety Assessment's

Potential Severity High

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT: Karyn Hughes Health & Safety Adviser 03 9265 7781