

# TXUAUSTRALIA SAFETYGRAM

## TXUAUSTRALIA

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## ESAA No: 23/2003

DATE: 27/05/03	TXUAUSTRALIA SAFETYGRAM
DATE OF INCIDENT: 16/05/03	REPORTED BY: TXU

### Details of Incident:

A new connection's crew consisting of two lineworkers and an electrical inspector were in the process of converting a Private Overhead Electric Line to underground due to an increase of load at a customer's premise. A Registered Electrical Contractor had run new consumers mains from a pit located in the road reserve and the crew's task at the time was to disconnect the overhead electric line from supply and liven up the underground mains to the customers switchboard.

The lineworker ascended the pole to perform the disconnection. Once the overhead conductors were cut away at the cross-arm, the pole proceeded to fall with the lineworker aloft.

### Extent of injury/damage:

The linesman sustained injuries to his right arm, collarbone and ribs. An ambulance was called to the site and the linesman was taken to hospital where he received medical attention.

The lineworker is presently at home making a recovery.

### Action taken:

TXUN have commenced an investigation into the incident. It is directed that all work involving the use of ladders on Overhead Private Electric Lines cease until further notice.

The incident was reported to the OCEI and WorkSafe Victoria.

### Additional comments:

TXUN reminds all employees and contractors of the following requirements:

- A 'safe to climb' test as per Section 6-46 of the VESI Lineworker's handbook must be performed.
- Poles where a 'safe to climb' test cannot be performed (i.e. poles supported in 3 or 4 directions by stays, tight services, conductors or a combination of these) are to be treated as per Section 6-55 of the VESI Lineworker's handbook.
- Lowering of conductors must be performed as per Section 6-52 of the VESI Lineworker's handbook.
- Isolations of Low Voltage conductors must be performed in accordance with Section 8-15 of the Lineworker's handbook and Green book clauses 10.1 and 10.1.3. .

Further investigations are continuing.

**Severity of incident:** Categorized as Potentially Fatal

**FATAL:** Potential to have caused death  
**HIGH:** Potential to have caused serious injury, permanent disability, ill health or serious damage to plant and equipment.  
**MEDIUM:**  
**LOW:**

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