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**SAFETY INCIDENT ADVICE**



**Western Power**

**ESAA 25/2003**

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DATE OF ACCIDENT/INCIDENT: 25 May 2003 DATE OF INITIAL TRANSMISSION: 1/07/03	ESAA NUMBER: 25/2003 ESAA DATE OF TRANSMISSION: 01/07/03

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

Two Network Employees working from an EWP had the task of removing three open aerial HV taps feeding a pole top HV cable termination. After removing the HV taps the cable was proven de-energised with a Modiwark.

The EWP basket was repositioned to allow access to the down earth connection attached to the HV cable-supporting bracket. A hand held ratchet cutter was used to cut away the down earth connection to the HV cable-supporting bracket.

A low voltage cross arm on the pole restricted the movement of the basket. When lowering the basket to ground, the Network Employee had to avoid the low voltage cross arm so he operated the dead-man, upper boom, lower boom and slew controls simultaneously. The EWP suddenly slewed quickly to the left destabilising the Network Employee's balance. The Network Employee let go of the control levers in an attempt to stop the EWP motion but the sudden movement of the basket brought his upper right arm into contact with the exposed end of the HV cable termination.

**Extent of injury/damage**

The Network Employee received an electrical discharge shock causing slight reddening of the skin and a tingling sensation in his arm.

**Local action taken:**

An investigation was conducted and recommendations made to prevent recurrence.

**Additional comments:**

Western Power reminds all employee's and contractors of the following:

1. Always identify the hazards at a workplace and put the required control measures in place before commencing any task
2. Consider all hazards and apply appropriate risk controls when positioning yourself and your work platform
3. Understand the requirements of Electrical Safety Instructions:
  - No work shall commence on high voltage cables until after the issue of an Access Permit.
  - Before any person touches a de-energised cable all conductors including neutral conductors shall be discharged and earthed.

**FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:**

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