

## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT ADVICE

### ESAA 29/2002

DATE OF INCIDENT: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2002  
ETSA UTILITIES REFERENCE NO:FS 50

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1  
(INCLUDING THIS SHEET)

#### Brief description of incident:

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2002, a Field Services transmission crew was replacing ES2 type dampers on an isolated and earthed TIPS to Cherry Gardens 275 kV transmission line (TS 1903). The transmission crew was using a Chance Ladder Support Assembly (part number E402-0525) attached to the vertical tower member for the work to be undertaken from a raised hook ladder.

The hook ladder was lifted into position for the top northern phase dampers to be replaced on the tower. On completion, the hook ladder was lowered for the northern centre phase dampers to be replaced.

Whilst an employee was climbing out on the hook ladder (using Manu-Link climbing devices) to replace the centre phase dampers, the support assembly fractured at the ladder attachment swivel of the casting. The hook ladder and the employee were both swung back against the tower from where the employee was able to climb back onto the tower.

#### Extent of actual damage:

The employee suffered bruising to the ribs, left shoulder & elbow.

#### Additional Comments:

A Job Folder was issued and used for the damper change over detailing the approved work method and relevant hazards and controls. A single job sheet was also used on the Sunday documenting the work method employed, identified hazards & controls and names of employees briefed on the work.

All appropriate PPE requirements for working at heights and associated procedures & instructions were followed for the replacement of the dampers, which certainly minimised the extent of the injuries sustained to the employee.

An investigation is currently being carried out to determine the reason for the Ladder Support Assembly failure, and all relevant parties will be notified of findings.

#### Local action to be taken to address any hazards:

- Managers / leaders to re-enforce that when climbing, working or rescuing at heights that all ETSA Utilities employees are **to be attached at all times**.
- Managers / leaders to remove from service all Ladder Support Assemblies for vertical tower members and tag "**Do Not Operate**".
- This Field Services Safety Alert is to be debriefed to employees at next work group meeting.
- Copy of Field Services Safety Alert to be posted on all Safety Notice Boards.

**FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT:** Any enquires regarding this alert should be referred to Garry Davis - ETSA Utilities Safety Advisor. Phone (08) 8292 0163