

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT ADVICE



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ESAA N° 31/2002

DATE OF INCIDENT: 18/06/2002
AURORA REFERENCE NO: IRIS 1394

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Brief description of incident:

Two Aurora Liveline employees were installing bird covers to the centre insulator and conductor of the Queenstown - Strahan 22kV overhead feeder using insulated sticks. The feeder is supported on steel lattice poles. While performing the work an electrical flash occurred, causing severe burns to one of the line-workers. At this stage it is unclear what caused the flash-over. The injured line-worker was rescued from the pole by work colleagues and taken by ambulance to Queenstown hospital. He was then transferred via air ambulance to Hobart.

Extent of actual damage:

The injured Lineworker suffered severe electrical burns to his right arm and minor electrical burns to his upper chest.

Estimate of potential damage:

The incident could also have resulted in electrical burns to the Lineworker on the other side of the steel lattice pole. This incident could also have been fatal.

Local action to be taken to address any hazards:

Work suspended pending the outcome of an independent investigation.

Implications for other worksites:

All work of a similar nature is suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT: Phil Draper, Team Leader Liveline, Phone (03) 6324 7578