

ESAA No: 38/2003
Safety Gram No. 16-03

AIM

To increase safety awareness affecting safe working practices and to provide Incident/Accident information sharing between centres.

TIME / DATE / LOCATION

- 10:00pm
- July 2003
- Katamatite

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

A neutral screen cable between a transformer pole and a steel lattice triangular private electric line structure (similar to structure shown below) supported by a bisect stay was being replaced during fault rectification work. The service had been lowered from the transformer pole. A 'safe to climb test' was undertaken on the steel lattice structure prior to climbing. Whilst a lineworker was ascending a ladder to lower the service the structure failed and fell when the lineworker was aloft.



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO INCIDENT

To be determined.

LOCAL ACTION TAKEN

Full investigation commenced.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

All Powercor personnel, Contractors and Local Service Agents (LSA's) are reminded:

- That a 'safe to climb' test as per Section 6-46 / 6-47 of the VESI Lineworker's Handbook must be performed.
- Poles where a 'safe to climb' test cannot be effectively performed are to be treated as per Section 6-55 of the VESI Lineworker's Handbook.
- Prior to climbing tubular steel private electric line poles / structures assess by observing for excess rust or holes. If evident the pole / structure must be treated as per Section 6-47 to 6-53 of the VESI Lineworker's Handbook.

POTENTIAL SEVERITY (Fatality, Permanent Injury, Minor Injury)

Serious

The lineworker suffered an injured shoulder.

- Please discuss at Work Group Meeting.
- Place a copy on all Health & Safety notice boards

Reported by: Richard Doolan

Phone (03) 5240 7757

Date: September 2003