

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT ADVICE



ESAA
Secretariat
PO Box A2492
Sydney South NSW 1235
Telephone (02) 9261 0141
Facsimile (02) 9261 3153
Email: grant@esaa.com.au



Aurora Energy Pty Ltd
GPO Box 191
Hobart Tasmania 7001
www.auroraenergy.com.au

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DATE OF INCIDENT: 09/04/2003
AURORA REFERENCE NO: IRIS 1903

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Brief description of incident:

An employee was manoeuvring the Elevating Work Platform away from a high voltage cable termination, which he had just disconnected from the insulators, for the purpose of a cable test in South Road Ulverstone. The boom knuckle of the EWP contacted the 22kV overhead roadside conductor. The employee saw flames from the tyres and around the stabiliser legs of the EWP and realised what had happened. He slewed the boom away from the conductor and stopped. The grounds-man had to bring the bucket down using the manual controls.

Extent of actual damage:

The employee in the bucket did not suffer any injuries. The EWP sustained damage to the tyres, other damage is unknown. The EWP was taken to Aurora's vehicle maintenance contractor for examination and repairs. The line protection operated and reclosed, supply was lost momentarily to 1500 customers.

Estimate of potential damage:

The incident could have resulted in a serious electric shock to the employee on the ground and serious injuries to the employee in the bucket had the EWP caught fire.

Local action to be taken to address any hazards:

Workplace Standards Tasmania were advised and an Inspector attended the site. The Inspector requested that the employee attend a doctor for a check over. The EWP was taken to Aurora's vehicle maintenance contractor for examination and repairs. An investigation was immediately commenced into the incident.

Implications for other worksites:

Work procedures in accordance with the Power System Isolation and Access Procedures must be followed at all times where work is under a Permit to Work.

FURTHER INFORMATION - CONTACT: Neville Burgess Resource Manager North Ph (03) 6324 6589