

# FIELD SAFETY ALERT

**To:** Managers, Leaders & Employees  
**Subject:** Fall from a transformer (Pictured)

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
**Alert no:** 349

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## Incident description

Recently, an employee fell from the transformer while preparing the plant for testing.

The employee was wearing fall arrest PPE at the time of the incident but the harness lanyard was not attached to an anchor point at the time of the fall.



## Extent of injury/damage

The employee sustained multiple injuries including a lacerated head, fractured wrist and chest injuries. The employee was transported to hospital by an ambulance and will require surgery, but fortunately (on this occasion) the injuries are not 'life threatening'.

## Actions undertaken

This incident is currently under formal investigation and has been reported to Safe Work SA.

## Causation factor

The employee's fall protection harness lanyard was not anchored at the time of the fall.

## Local actions (Related to this incident and any working at heights)

Managers and Leaders are required to place a copy of this Safety Alert on all Safety Notice Boards and discuss the Safe Work Methods related to managing the risk of falls in the workplace.

Managers and Leaders to reinforce the importance of quality risk assessments which identify all risks and safe work methods and/or equipment to be used prior to any work commencing on plant or equipment at heights. This action must enable employees to be anchored at all times while working at heights. Also emphasise the need for correct use and care of fall arrest PPE.

Leaders' Audit and Observations should focus on working at heights to ensure the safe work practices are being adhered to at all times. The Field Service Instruction FI-A5 should be used as a reference to Working at Heights in Substations and the Code of Practice for Managing the Risk of Falls in the Workplace is available from your Work Health and Safety group.

Employees must ensure they adhere to the Safe Work Methods at all times and their personal protective equipment is inspected regularly and is within test date. It is a non negotiable requirement to remain attached at all times when working at heights.

## Comments

Any enquiries regarding this bulletin should be referred to Chris Fitzgerald Substation & Powerline Operations Manager 0418 891 061.