Safety Advice 02-2013 (Mar)(NZ)

The following Transpower Safety Alert for Public Safety Incidents, dated 07 March 2013, is circulated as EEA Safety Advice 02-2013. This has been shared with the wider industry courtesy of Transpower to heighten awareness of mobile plant risks in the vicinity of overhead electrical conductors, particularly for mobile irrigators. The EEA will circulate any supplementary advices as further information becomes available.

For information, the very recently published EEA "Guide for Non-Electricity Employees Using Mobile Plant Near Power Lines and Electricity Cables" provides useful guidance to non-industry parties about avoiding electrical hazards in the use of equipment such as irrigators. Industry businesses may use this EEA Guide to assist public safety messages to non-industry groups. The guide is available at www.eea.co.nz in the section "Publications" Download …"

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TRANSPOWER

SAFETY ALERT!

Date: 7 March 2013

Public Safety Incident
Mobile Irrigator contacts 110kV line

WHAT HAPPENED?

While positioning a mobile irrigator on farmland an employee accidently made contact with an overhead 110kV line (FHL-WDV A).

When inducted to work on the farm by the Employer the employee had been instructed to remain in situ should an event like this occur; which he did and no injuries were suffered.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- All Transpower systems operated as planned to protect equipment and personnel.
- A Transpower contractor arrived on site to prove the circuit was de-energised. The farm employee was advised by the Transpower contractor that it was safe to dismount the irrigator.
- The damaged conductor was repaired and the circuit was returned to service.

ROOT CAUSE

- Failure to maintain 4 metre Minimum Approach Distance (MAD) for mobile plant from the Circuit.
- While positioning the plant the irrigator moved off its normal path and the left hand wheel dropped into a rut. This caused the boom arm, (40 metres long), to pivot and make contact with the conductor.

RECOMENDATIONS

- **The irrigator anchorage has been moved to a point 10metres from the fence line/Circuit.**
- **Landowners who use irrigators should be communicated with and reminded of the need to ensure that the 4 metre clearance (MAD) away from transmission lines is maintained at all times.**

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