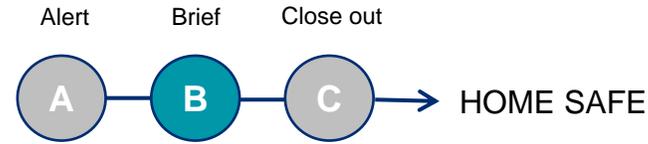


SHE BRIEF

Fall From Height



Key initial learnings to be shared more widely

What happened?

On the 6th December 2023, one of our contract partner colleagues fell from height whilst descending an 11kV pole. They lost their footing on initial descent, and their pole choking device (Climbsafe) did not effectively engage to arrest the fall. They fell approximately 5-6m to the ground below, suffering a fractured pelvis. Conditions on the day were cold, with frost and snow.

What have we done?

Following the investigation from our contract partner, we can report the following findings;

- The pole being worked on was only accessible by foot. MEWP access was not possible.
- All fall arrest equipment used by the IP was LOLER compliant, and in a serviceable condition with no defects or damage.
- The IP's Climbsafe was deployed around the pole when the IP was recovered after the fall.
- The pole did not have snow or ice on it. Green weathering was present – which is common and would make the pole slimy to touch – however this would not impede the Climbsafe from engaging.
- No obvious identifying marks were present on the pole that show where the Climbsafe might have temporarily engaged and then failed.
- There is no evidence that the choker has been engaged in a fall, as there were no deviation or twists to the choker gaff, nor was there damage to the bungie cord.

Wider learning

- The investigation has concluded that the likely root cause of the incident is that the Climbsafe was not adjusted sufficiently enough to arrest the fall.
- To remain effective, the Climbsafe requires constant adjustment during both ascent and descent.

