



Falling Objects

WHAT HAPPENED?

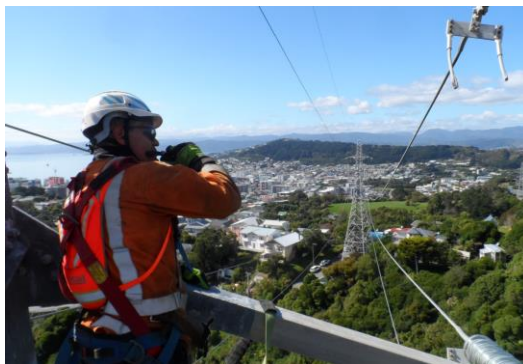
Over the last 3 months there have been a number of dropped object incidents when people have been working aloft undertaking lines construction and maintenance work. The dropped objects include small personal items (e.g. mobile phone, drink bottle), small hand tools (e.g. screwdriver) and more substantial tools (e.g. hydraulic cutter, conductor grips, grinder). In all cases a primary exclusion zone had been established, and there were no injuries to people on the ground.



ACTION TAKEN

Common actions included:

- Using toolbox meetings to reinforce the need to use tool lanyards to secure tools aloft, and always checking carabiners are properly closed.
- Purchasing additional tool-specific lanyards to ensure crews have the means to prevent equipment being dropped.
- Reminder to crews that only tools and equipment essential for the task and worker health & safety be carried aloft.



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Tool tethering practices and devices were inadequate in some instances.
- Failure to install good tethering points on some awkward tools/equipment.
- Not checking that carabiners were fully closed and secure before letting go of the tool or equipment.

LEARNINGS

This Safety Alert is to remind people working aloft and those on the ground below of the falling object hazard in their workplace. Always use recognised and approved lanyards to secure tools and equipment and establish and maintain effective drop zones.

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