TRANSPOWER

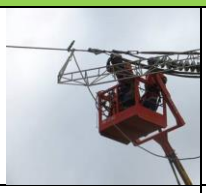
SAFETY ALERT!

Equipotential bonding and earthing

WHAT HAPPENED?

Workers accessed conductor by being on the ladder with only 1 set of earths on 1 side of the work site.

Conductors not cleaned, and earths not tightened – result could be serious harm to workers relying on these connections to maintain equipotential zones.



Personnel bucket earth not applied before contact with conductor or equipment in contact with conductor.

Earth attachment point not cleaned before use, needs to be cleaned to ensure it performs as required.

Earthing of blasting equipment not up to standard, equipment sitting on an insulated mat.

Truck hoppers bonded to chassis through non-conductive wood deck via 2 x 12mm bolts. Metalic surfaces must be in full contact.

Over the last year, poor earthing/bonding practices were identified across a variety of field work.

IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

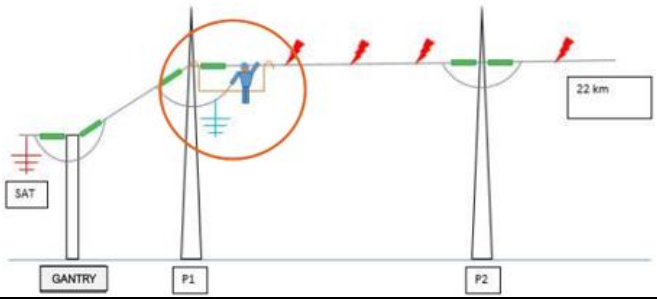
Transpower intervened, service providers were very cooperative onsite to remediate concerns.

ROOT CAUSE

Weaknesses in the Identification of hazards, and associated site specific equipotential bonding and earthing plans, and understanding that effective earthing and bonding practices are fundamental to under pinning the keys to life.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In December 2018 in Belgium, during work on a de-energized 150kV circuit in parallel with a 150kV in service circuit, a Transmission line worker disconnected a jumper connection without using a bridging earth. The full induction of the line went through his body and, he was electrocuted.



- **This is a reminder of the requirement to create Equipotential Zones (EPZs) and importance of site specific equipotential bonding and earthing plans. Further information is available from TP.SS 06.12 / 07.23 / 07.24.**

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