

Date Issued: 19 May 2015

Incident Title: Logger contacts HV line

Event Details:

On Tuesday 16 April 2015, on a farm track near Lawrence, the driver of a logging truck parked his vehicle so that he could secure the load of logs that had just been loaded onto his truck. He threw a chain over the logs and the chain became tangled in the wires of a 11,000 Volt power line running beside the track on which the truck was parked.

The driver realised the wires were above his load as he threw the chain and released it before it made contact with the wires - it is likely that he would have been killed if he had still been holding the chain when it hit the wires.

Some of the tires on the truck and trailer unit began smoking as the chain was hanging over the wires. The driver ensured that others in the area were aware of the danger and kept the scene secure until the power line could be disconnected.

A possible outcome of this situation was the electrocution of the driver, and the truck and its load being completely razed.

The photo on the right is not the incident described above but a similar incident that occurred in the USA.

Note the chain caught on the overhead wires above the load.



Learnings:

1. Drivers of heavy vehicles, particularly logging trucks, need to be aware of the proximity of power lines when securing their loads.
2. In this instance it appears that the risk assessment was inadequate and that appropriate precautions were not taken.

Contact: Graeme Webby

HSEQ Manager

Phone 03 2118802