Safety Alert – 22 September 2014

Serious Harm Incident – Broken Finger

A trainee line mechanic had an incident where he suffered crushing to one finger on his right hand and a fracture to the adjacent finger

What happened?

The trainee and a line mechanic were in the bucket of a Versalift Elevating Work Platform which has a line lifting attachment and also a bucket lifter. As they were descending, the line mechanic slewed the EWP bucket. The trainee line mechanic was looking up at the low voltage lines and was gripping the edge of the bucket. In the process of slewing, the bucket struck the edge of the unpinned lower rotating arm of the line lifter, trapping the trainee's fingers between the rotating arm and the edge of the EWP bucket.

Investigation findings

Immediate causes:

- Trainee having hands outside the EWP bucket whilst slewing
- EWP operator has limited experience
- Poor communication between the two parties in the EWP

Contributing causes:

- EWP design

Interim Solution

- Hazard signage on lower rotating boom and inside of EWP liner (see second photo)

TY 220K
46KV
4.3M
WARNING
KEEP HANDS CLEAR
OF PINCH POINT
WHEN SLEWING
OR LIFTING BUCKET