



110 kV overhead line Crane Strike

WHAT HAPPENED?

A crane was lifting concrete panels into place during the construction of a building underneath a Transpower 110kV transmission line.

While manouvering one of the panels into place, the crane's boom made inadvertent contact with the bottom conductor wire of the transmission line. This resulted in the dogman who was guiding the panel receiving a severe electric shock, throwing him backwards onto the ground.

The crane driver then lowered the crane's boom and the construction crew attended to the injured dogman.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- Site was made safe and the dogman was taken to hospital for the burns to be treated.
- WorkSafe was alerted and the scene was preserved.
- WorkSafe visited the site then handed back to Transpower for repairs to the conductor.

ROOT CAUSE

The incident is currently under investigation by the construction company and WorkSafe.

LEARNINGS

- Work and operation of machinery around transmission lines must meet a minimum approach distance of 4m from the conductor at all times as set out in NZECP 34. A "WARNING, KEEP CLEAR OF POWER LINES" notice must be fixed near the operator's position on the machine. For more information on managing risks, see the WorkSafe information sheet on Working Near Overhead Electric Power Lines.
- The potential for loss of life due an event like this is extremely high.
- Failure to maintain the required minimum approach distance resulted in significant damage to the crane as well as the truck located in the vicinity.
- If you observe any unsafe work near transmission lines, please contact Transpower immediately on 0800 THE GRID.