Safety Advice 26-2013 (Aug) (NZ)

Safety Advice 26-2013, courtesy of Transpower, outlines an incident in which 220kV cable being installed in a tunnel free fell. An investigation is underway. The initial advice follows.

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TRANSPOWER

FIRST ALERT

Date: 23/08/2013

220kV Cable Free Fall in Penrose Shaft

EVENT: During installation and lowering of the 220kV cable into the Penrose – Hobson through transmission tunnel, the cable descent became uncontrolled and went into a free fall situation.

Description

A 220kV cable was being installed into the Penrose- Hobson tunnel when the cable became free from the restraint equipment being used for installation. This allowed an uncontrolled fall of the cable to the base of the shaft, partially entering into the tunnel enlargement.

Two workers at the base of the shaft were taken to accident and emergency as a precautionary measure. Whilst moving away from the cable one individual received minor bruising and abrasions; the other individual was unharmed. Damage was sustained to the scaffolding, cables and existing water pumps.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Work was immediately stopped
- All party's exited the tunnel and were accounted for
- The individual with minor injury was taken for medical assessment
- Scene was frozen and work site closed
- Outages taken in the tunnel to protect personnel and assets
- Investigation commenced

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For more information Please contact:

Hina Arahanga
Project HSSE Manager
027 234 9810