



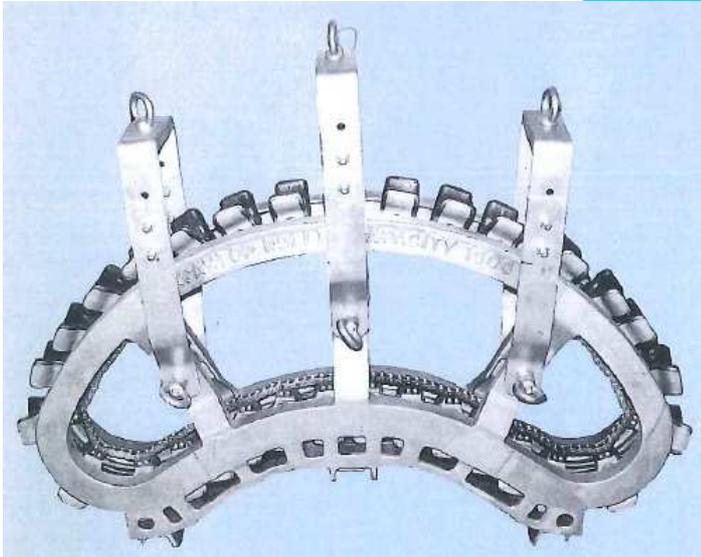
Safety Advice 39-2013 (Oct) (NZ)

The following Safety Alert courtesy of Transpower and Electrix is preliminary information about running block failure resulting in what could have been serious harm. Use of such equipment is safety-critical. The EEA understands that further information will be made available post investigation, and this will be posted as a supplementary Safety Advice.

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safety alert

MAN – TWI A OPGW Running Block



What Happened

A new NGK caterpillar running block failed resulting in the block twisting and the OPGW falling out of the rollers. When the OPGW fell out of the rollers it grazed across a linesman face and shoulder before forcing and trapping his arm against the earthpeak steel.

Immediate Actions

A second lineman who was descending the tower has returned to the earthpeak to help released the trapped arm and they have both descended the tower.

The lineman involved has been assessed at Te Anau medical centre and we understand that there is only minor grazes and bruising (ice was applied on the way to the medical centre).

Apparent Cause

An attachment eye on a NGK caterpillar running block failed.

Learnings

Checks and inspections on NGK running blocks should to be thorough to determine if there are any sign of weakness/distress especially around the attachment eyes until a full investigation has been completed.

For further information please contact Electrix - Campbell Hardy on 021 221 2779

Date: 31st October 2013

Safety Alerts are advisory only. They contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported and the key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event