

Incident Alert



Incident Title:

While floating an earth wire the comealong came off the earth wire tail.

Incident Description and Details:

During the floating of the tail of the earth wire the pull attachment had to be changed when the sock reached a block that it could not pass through.

Changing the attachment point from the sock to a friction grip meant a change in pull direction, which imparted a side load on the comealong. This, combined with a low pull tension that did not provide sufficient gripping force, allowed the comealong to pull off the wire as the pull angle changed.

The cause of the failure was a rigging error, which allowed a combination of the low pull tension, a slight side loading (indirect pull) of the comealong due to the change of pull angle, coupled with the twisting of the earth wire, which lead to the failure of the comealong.

Recommendations / Lessons:

Where there is a potential for side loading (indirect pull) and/or low pull tensions a review of the rigging method to eliminate these, or a bolted comealong should be used.

Contact Person:

Ron Cole HSE Advisor, Waikato, (021) 327 068

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