

Attention: All UCSL Employees, Contractors, EEA

Subject	Serious Harm Accident Investigation Update		
Alert Number	SA 085	Date Issued	29/08/2014
Issued by	UCSL Health and Safety Manager	Effective	Immediately
Authorised by:	Chief Executive Officer Contracting		

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT

On 5 August 2014, a line mechanic climbed a transformer pole via a ladder.

The lineman then went about securing his pole strap around the pole.

After securing the ladder, he leant back and turned to see where another member of the work party was.

One of the double action clips on his pole strap was not engaged and the staff member subsequently fell to the ground and unfortunately, fractured his pelvis.



Photo 1: The accident scene.

ROOT CAUSE

This was an unintended human error.

The lineman failed to check both pole strap clips were engaged properly in the harness D-rings before trusting his weight to the pole strap.

GENERAL REMINDER ON SAFE WORK PRACTICES

When working off a ladder the following safe work practices must be adhered to:

- Like all PPE, both pole strap double action clips and harness D-rings must be checked to ensure that they are operational prior to climbing the ladder.
- **NEVER** assume that the pole strap clip that is semi or permanently engaged to your harness D-ring is engaged.
- Once you have climbed the ladder and before **any** weight is placed on the harness and pole strap:
 - Visually check that **both** pole strap double action clips are engaged in your harness D-Rings with the latch outwards.
 - Give **both** clips a tug to check that they are engaged properly.
 - Grab **both** sides of the pole strap and lean back.
- Secure the ladder.