



Serious Injury to Contract Tower Linesman

Whilst carrying out refurbishment work on a 132kV tower line, a contract linesmen fell approximately 15 meters to ground receiving serious injuries.

The linesman was taken by air ambulance to hospital where it was diagnosed that he had dislocated his shoulder and also received two deep lacerations/cuts to his chin and one above his eye.

An investigation is ongoing to establish the sequence of events where relevant recommendations and learning points will be communicated in due course.

In the interim, the recommendations below are aimed at reinforcing the need to be extremely diligent and vigilant in the way you carry out your duties, so that you keep yourself and your colleagues safe.



Learning Points

- 1 Before climbing, always carry out a visual inspection of your working at height PPE looking out for any signs of damage or distress, small cuts in the webbing and also checking that all the karabiners or gated hooks function and operate correctly.
- 2 When working at height, always establish and maintain a “Controlled Access Exclusion Zone”.
- 3 Ensure enough persons within the working party are competent, trained and authorised to use the approved rescue procedures. Ensure rescue kits are available on site and close to towers or poles.
- 4 All persons gaining access to and when working on towers/high structures shall make proper use of the approved safety equipment and shall be in visual range of another person(s).
- 5 Maintain permanent attachment at all times when working on, or when moving around the tower or structure (one on, one off policy).
- 6 If you're unable to carry out an approved technique, STOP and seek further assistance or seek advice from your Supervisor, the SAP or a Health & Safety Advisor.

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