



FEATURE 11, Autumn 2007

AA Utility Arboriculture Group Quarterly Update

Revision of G55 (Safe Tree Working in Proximity to Overhead Electric Lines) – consultation results that will shape the revised standard.

By Nick Eden

The Energy Networks Association is currently reviewing G55/1. In order that the guidance given is appropriate the ENA has carried out a review of previous 'incidents' to identify the most significant hazards – this consultation was facilitated in part by the Arboricultural Association's Utility Arboriculture Group and you can see the consultation on www.trees.org.uk/consultpage.php.

The following table shows the results of the consultation:

Type of Incident	Voltage			Comments
	LV	HV (up to 33kV)	EHV (>33kv)	
Electrical Incidents				
incidents concerning trees above the level of conductors	1			
incidents concerning trees below the level of conductors				
direct contact with live conductor	1			
discharge from failure of insulated equipment	1			
branch causes clashing phase to phase				
branch causes bridging phase to phase	1			
insulated tools cause clashing of conductors	1			
insulated tools cause bridging phase to phase				
tree felled on to live conductors				
broken live conductor or pole				
broken isolated conductor or pole	4			
non-insulated tools or ropes contact live conductors				

MEWP contact with energised conductors				
planned dead work carried out on energised or un-earthed/bonded network	1	1		SAP Authorisation withdrawn

Non Electrical Incidents				
fall from height from tree	2	1		
fall from height from MEWP				
cut with chainsaw		2	1	Minor
chipper injury	1	1		Minor
slips/trips	5	14	3	2 nos LTI
struck by object	4		1	Minor
manual handling	3	4	3	Minor
eye injuries		6	2	Minor
equipment roll over		1		Near Hit

Other Incidents				
Thorn Injuries		6	12	Minor
Other	6	2		
Near Hit Reports	20	30	5	

In September the AA UAG meets in Perth with the guide's principal author and it is expected that the group will match the incidents to the proposals for the guide's revision to ensure that the revised guidance achieves its goal of increasing safety.

Membership of the Core Group of the UAG is open to all AA members who have a contribution to bring to the work of the group and members are selected by Professional Committee. Membership of the Virtual UAG is open to anyone, see www.trees.org.uk/uag.php for details.

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