

Safety Bulletin



Linesman injured following fall from a wood pole

A UK based DNO has recently reported a contractor linesman fell approximately six metres on Thursday 14th July 2016, and sustained a broken arm and pelvis. The linesman is currently recovering in hospital.

Recommendations and Action Points

The investigation associated with this incident is ongoing, and it is too soon to conclude and communicate any further details. Notwithstanding this the points listed below should serve as a reminder to all operatives engaged in working at height, particularly on wood poles.

1. Before working at height a planning or point of work risk assessment must be completed, and the most suitable means of access for completing the work required must be justified, in line with any specific company policies.
2. Only approved equipment included in a formal documented inspection regime will be used for planned work at height. All equipment must be checked immediately prior to it being used by the trained and Competent operative. Non-approved equipment, or equipment suspected of being damaged or degraded will be quarantined and must not be used.
3. When working at height on wood poles, all operatives must be permanently attached at all times. These attachment devices may include a pole choke device, shock absorber lanyard, sliding rope grab device, or other piece of equipment approved by your company. A second device must be attached before the primary point of attachment is removed during the ascending and descending processes.
4. Once the climbing process is completed, and the working position established, the second device should be applied immediately to form the second point of attachment, prior to commencing any work activity. This should remain in place until the descent of the structure commences.
5. Failure to comply with approved climbing or permanent attachment techniques is not tolerated by DNO's. It can lead to serious injuries and disciplinary procedures.



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