



Linesman falls from a ladder

An incident has recently been reported where a linesman fell from height while using a ladder to access a pole.

Paramedics were called to site to administer first aid and the linesman was then taken to hospital for further assessment and treatment.

A Panel of Inquiry is currently under way to determine the root cause and any contributory factors associated with the accident, and we hope that further information and any recommendations will be shared in due course.



Learning Points – All operatives, if having to work on wood poles at height should consider the following:

1. The first consideration shall be the use of a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)
2. If this is not reasonably practicable, then consideration shall be given to using an approved ladder, which should be stable and secure
3. When at the top of the ladder immediately secure yourself to the pole by applying an approved pole choke device and fall arrest lanyard
4. If neither of the above methods above are reasonably practicable, then climbing irons and approved personal fall arrest equipment should be used
5. Always apply a second point of attachment, in addition to the pole choke device, immediately when you arrive at your work position
6. It is the operatives responsibility to ensure that all components of fall arrest equipment are fully engaged and locked
7. All members of a working party should ensure that correct procedures are followed

If you are unable to carry out work within the procedures of an approved technique, STOP and seek further advice or assistance from your Line Manager, Supervisor or your Health and Safety Advisor.

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