

ZHA15-33

Date: 15/06/2015

Light Tower Touches 22,000 Volt Overhead Power Lines



What happened?

- In darkness, a traffic controller raised a mobile light tower and touched 22000 volt power lines
- Electric current could be seen leaving metal support leg touching ground (earth) and smoke emitted
- No one sustained any electric shock or injuries, however, such incidents may have a risk of being fatal

Why did it happen?

- A site review did not occur during daylight hours prior to elevating equipment, for purpose of identifying overhead power lines and clearly identifying them.
- No checks were made with torch to identify power lines before raising tower
- Contractors had not been advised of the need to undertake site reviews in daylight hours, and use of torch
- No line reflectors were requested from Power company to identify power lines at remote location
- Downer risk assessment did not identify power lines at that location – no zone of understanding drawn identifying power lines
- Scope of works changed requiring repositioning of traffic control – (9 job sites over 12 kilometers)

Action required:

- Look up before raising light towers or working near power lines. Use torch to check for power lines if dark.
- If undertaking work at night, undertake site inspections / assessment during daylight hours to identify power lines.
- Ensure site inspections identify the position of power lines, and ensure they are made visible with various markers (e.g. yellow traffic cones with retro-reflective look up and live stickers, or lights, road marked with stencil paint).
- Communicate the learnings from Alerts to relevant contractors.
- Ensure on site risk assessment, and SWMS identifies power line hazards and controls **AND** all crews consulted, when changes occur, consider the new hazards that may be introduced or which may be impacted. Use the STAR principles.

For further information contact:	Colin Dopson (Surfacing Manager)	Phone:	0477 778 831
Authorised by:	Wahid Badea (ZH Manager)	Phone:	0427 587 158

Discuss at next available pre-start meeting/post on notice boards – (valid for 3 months) 07/11/2015