

ZHA15-34

Date: 11/07/2015

Contact with Overhead Power Lines



What happened?

- Two employees were using an 18 Tonne articulated Terex Franna to transport and relocate a cable drum to a workshop storage and lay down area located approximately 1.2 km from their work area. Both employees were inside the cab of the Franna at this time as they were mobile with the secured load. They had just turned left off the main access road whilst approaching the workshop storage and laydown area and came in contact with unidentified 22KV Overhead Power Lines. Operator immediately lowered the boom, reversed back and exited the vehicle. They then saw the overhead power lines close to the crane.

Why did it happen?

- The HV overhead power lines had no signage warning road users of the presence of overhead power lines, voltages and clearances – all other access roads are clearly signposted.
- A large redundant reclaimer beside the main access road partially blocked view of overhead power lines and angle of the sun at the time of incident resulted in it shining into the eyes of the crane operator when turning the corner.
- Crane team decided to 'travel' load with boom at >7.0 m rather than stop and 'shorten' load chains.
- No risk assessment specific to 'travelling' the load to the laydown area was undertaken.
- No Permit to Work / Authority to Work had been issued to the work crew for the area they were working in.

Action required:

- Cordoned off area and access road below power lines.
- Fitness for work testing undertaken inclusive of ECG – results all clear.
- Commence ICAM investigation with Client.
- Restored power.
- NSW EC&M mandate that Route Survey and supervisor sign off is required for any load 'travelling' with boom above 4 metres until further notice.

For further information contact:	Construction Manager – Brad Wieczorek	Phone:	0447 109 644
Authorised by:	General Manager Zero Harm – Joe Spataro	Phone:	0428 444 200

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