



Safety Alert

INCIDENT TITLE: Dropped tool tray while working at height

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT: 22nd August 2016

INCIDENT DETAIL

A contractor was working from a man bucket relocating the high voltage overhead lines. Tools for the job were being held in a steel tool tray attached to the outside of the man bucket.

During the work the bucket lurched and the tool tray became dis-attached, falling approximately 10m to the transformer platform below.

A drop zone was in place below the work area with a dedicated safety observer. This prevented people entering the area and proved to be an effective safety control.

On inspection it was found the tool tray was in a poor condition and there was damage around the mounting brackets.

Prior to the event team members were aware the tool tray was in poor condition and that it could present a safety risk.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The following are recommendations for tool storage when working at height:

- Tools should be contained within the man bucket such that if they fall out of the tool tray they remain in the man bucket rather than falling to the ground.
- Assess the relevant risks before working at height, including the potential for equipment, plant or clothing to be dropped, and preparing a heights rescue plan.
- Consider the need to tether tools or items to avoid unplanned drops.
- Speak up when a safety risk is observed. Improvements cannot be made without action.

BEST PRACTICE

Tool boxes are only used where they are securely attached to the bucket and on the inside of the bucket, or on the floor of the bucket. Such that there is no risk of the toolbox or tools falling to the ground.

PHOTOGRAPHS



Man bucket in use



Tool tray mounted on the side of man bucket

IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS

Ensure all plant and equipment is checked for similar failings and risk items.

Consider the suitability of any devices / equipment fixed to the outside of elevated plant and remove the devices / equipment if it is not necessary.

This Safety Alert is issued by the Corporate Safety & Health Team. For further information please contact:

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