



SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learnings



INCIDENT TITLE:

Dropped cell phone

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

13th Jan 2022 – 11.30am

INCIDENT DETAIL :

Dropped objects are a leading cause of injury in the workplace and the wind/electrical industry is no exception.

A phone weighing 189 grams accidentally dropped 28-30 meters. The phone was being placed back into a pocket and slipped falling through a small gap that had been created between the floor plate and the cover plate intended for letting the internal crane loads pass through levels.

An internal drop zone was in place and being strictly adhered to.

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

The importance of not becoming complacent when working at height and looking at the 'what if' is very important. We need to ensure that all of the controls are in place before we start work when working with critical risks.

Another learning that is important here, though, is about making sure the controls are fit for purpose and easy to use, and if not to speak up!

This incident was reported straight away. The team were then encouraged to review our current tethering devices and look for better options.

Market research was completed, and a different innovative phone tethering option was found.

This has now been trailed at Te Apiti for the past 2 months with all involved giving positive feedback.

Key features:

- Custom silicon compound made for strength & grip.
- Avoids installing a permanent connector point on a mobile device.
- No additional adhesives required.
- Integrated, load rated tether connection eyelet.
- Compatible with virtually every smartphone model.
- Conforms to ANSI/ISEA 121-2019

It has been requested that all operational wind turbine staff be issued one phone tethering device and the site have plenty of

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

Our critical controls were effective in ensuring nobody was hurt however the phone still dropped breaking it beyond repair. The standard phone tethering device provided to the team is a 3m clip that can be stuck to the phone making an easy attachment point for a tethering lanyard. When it was rolled out it got mixed reactions due to the clip not being able to be removed making the phone too bulky to put into a pocket. Consequently use of this safety device was somewhat diminished.



A weakened latent condition laid dormant in our system

PHOTO:



GRIPPS Phone Gripper \$13.95 each 1

THE CORPORATE SAFETY AND HEALTH TEAM ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE ABOVE LEARNINGS. IF INTERESTED IN VIEWING THE FULL INVESTIGATION REPORT FOR THIS INCIDENT, IT CAN BE FOUND HERE:

Safety Manager 1258069. Alternatively contact Shayne Roberts or Bobby Ball