Alert

Health Safety Wellbeing

Mercury

KAIWERA DOWNS

Critical Risk Dropped Object

What happened?

Timberlands running block fell approximately 36metres from the Earth Peak crossarm to ground level.

The block had been secured to the crossarm using a 4.75-tonne green pin rigging shackle.

Wind speeds exceeding 100 km/h caused significant vibration and movement of the block, which caused the shackle pin to gradually unwind resulting in the block detaching and falling to the ground.

The incident occurred over the weekend while no personnel were present onsite.

Figure 1. Distance from the pole to the ground where the running block had fallen. Shackle used without a secondary restraint.

Why?

A running block fell 36m from a transmission pole during extreme winds due to the use of an unsuitable shackle without a locking mechanism, highlighting the need for improved rigging procedures, risk assessment, and use of locking-type shackles.

What did we learn?

- **Design:** Inappropriate shackle (finger-tightened type) used to hold the running block that was not under tension. This rigging configuration was lacking a secondary restraint or locking mechanism.
- **Risk management:** The risk and controls to mitigate this risk, were absent from the risk assessment.
- **Procedures:** No procedures related to rigging activities mention the type of shackles that should be used or not used onsite.
- **Strengthen learning opportunities**: Use incident as a chance to understand system factors and share insights for collective improvement.

How could this happen on your job?

What can you do to prevent it happening again?

How can you 'Look Out for One Another'?

Further information	Authorised by	Useful Resources
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