



SAFETY ALERT



INCIDENT	A1/P4
SUBJECT	Overhead Power Line Struck by an Excavator
INCIDENT DATE	20 February 2020
BUSINESS UNIT	Higgins - Fiji

WHAT HAPPENED?

On the 20th of Feb approximately at 5:30AM Higgins Fiji sealing crew were loading mobile plant and materials on to a barge in Lautoka wharf. Above the road leading to the barge there was a low voltage (240V) insulated overhead power line. The line was at height of approximately 4.4 metres. A 14T rubber wheel excavator had to be moved from the parking area to the barge's loading zone. A sealing supervisor operated the loader and on his way to the barge he inadvertently struck the power line. The line snapped and fell to the ground.



Photos: The incident scene

Preliminary Information (still to be validated)

- Higgins SOP Working Around Overhead Services appears not followed,
- The overhead cable risk appears not adequately identified and managed,
- The operator appears not deemed competent/licenced to drive an excavator,

WHAT ACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE ALREADY?

- The power line on the ground was cordoned off.
- Local service owner was notified. They attended the scene and reinstated the power line.
- Local Higgins management team was notified.
- The operator/supervisor was D&A tested and the results were negative.
- Investigation commenced and is being led by Fiji operations staff.
- Safety Stand-down for Higgins New Zealand & Fiji is being organised (employees & include key subcontractors) to occur Monday.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR ALL OF US (pre-investigation)

- Procedures and Risk Controls need to be complied with at all times.
- Supervisors/Managers to ensure a check-in with people to confirm they have understood the process and risk controls at pre-starts. Failure to comply with the mandatory risk controls may lead to disciplinary action.
- Ensure effective pre-start planning of work and/or equipment movement is undertaken, including the identification and control of potential hazards such as overhead services.
- Ensure there is adequate lighting in place to illuminate the work site if working before sunrise or after sunset.
- Ensure all operators are licensed and deemed competent for the task.
- When operating plant, if an overhead power line is struck, remain inside the vehicle cabin and call for help. Sit still without touching any metal or other items that may conduct electricity. Only exit the cabin if you are in imminent danger ie vehicle is on fire.
- If unsure, or it is unsafe, or you do not have the appropriately licenced person, competency, spotter and/or equipment, then do not proceed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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