

POTENTIAL CLASS 1 – Working outside EWP basket

Flinders Link Project, 29 June 2019

During an operation to cut and shut high tension overhead traction powerlines a worker has left the Elevated Working Platform (EWP) basket. Two workers had been working in a EWP tensioning lines 5 meters off the ground on an isolated track line when the task was stalled by the weight of the lines resting on the EWP basket rendering the machine inactive. In an attempt to lessen the load to restart the machine and get back to the ground the worker climbed out of the basket secured to the basket and stood on the knuckle of the boom to enable the machine to start again. Once the weight had been lifted the machine started again and the workers returned to the ground.



CONSIDERATIONS

The investigation is currently underway but the implementation and monitoring of the critical controls in FSR 4 Work at Heights must be adhered to, including and ensuring the below:

- Personnel working at heights are trained and competent (W@H is defined as where the requirement exists to wear a fall arrest/restraint harness)

All workplaces should review their current Work at Height activities to ensure that risks are considered and appropriate controls are in place and working effectively using the guidance in HSE information sheet Elevated Working Platforms ([click here](#) to access the information sheet), in particular:

- Operators shall always access and egress from the platform when it is fully lowered and by the steps/ladders provided for that purpose
- Persons shall not attempt to leave the platform whilst in the elevated position, nor must materials be transferred
- Rescue plans developed for activity being conducted or referenced in SWMS.
- Overloading by exceeding the SWL is extremely hazardous and must never take place. Not only may it cause the machine to overturn but it may damage the machine.

02 July 2019