

# CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



## High Potential Incident - interaction with powerlines

**Number:** 93

**Issued:** 28/4/2023

### Background

On 19 April, a forwarder operator entered the exclusion zone around an identified and marked power line and clipped the earth wire with the boom whilst attempting to reverse the machine next to their light vehicle to refuel. If the boom had been raised slightly higher it would have struck a live powerline with a potential catastrophic outcome.

### Key Points

- Fortunately, there were no injuries.
- Operator witnessed earth wire hit the ground and instantly stopped and lowered the boom, then reversed away from the powerline. The operator immediately informed colleagues of incident via radio, then proceeded to inform management and phoned Western Power to report breakage.
- Area was isolated until Western Power completed repairs.
- The powerlines had been identified as a hazard on the work site and machinery was prohibited from entering the exclusion zone.
- Powerline overhead signs are in place and the powerline stays are marked with danger tape.
- Workers had been inducted to the work site and instructed that no machinery under any circumstance was to cross under the powerlines. Machine operators were instructed to park their machine in a safe place and bring their vehicle to the machine for refuelling.
- Workers were reminded in a toolbox meeting the day prior of the hazard (powerline) and exclusion zone.