

Safety Bulletin

A serious incident has taken place

Mobile Tower Light contacts energised overhead line

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers

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Overview

During a possession over Christmas on a North Alliance switch and crossing renewal project, a member of staff raised a tower light which was located directly under the overhead line equipment (OLE) to provide lighting at the access point.

The light came into contact with energised OLE causing the 25kV equipment to trip out.

Thankfully no injuries were sustained but both the tower light and OLE were damaged.

A level 2 local investigation is underway to establish the root cause and provide lessons learnt.

Discussion Points

Remember you must treat the OLE as being energised and dangerous at all times unless you have been personally issued with an overhead line Form C Permit to work or briefed by your COSS/SWL that one is in place for your work.

- How do you plan the safe use of any items of plant including cranes, Road Rail Vehicles or similar equipment that can come within 2.75m / 9ft of live OLE?
- When undertaking site walkouts to establish lighting equipment locations in the vicinity of OLE what factors should be considered when identifying individual lighting locations?
- When delivering, placing or recovering lighting equipment in the vicinity of OLE what should be in place before any movement is made?

Remember other overhead power supply networks cross or run parallel to the railway and potentially carry much higher voltages.

- What control measures do you need in place when multiple lighting towers have to be raised or lowered in the vicinity of OLE?
- How do you confirm those individuals tasked with operating lighting towers fully understand and comply with the control measures you have in place?

For further guidance, download and refer to 'Avoiding danger from overhead power lines Guidance Note GS6' (Fourth edition).

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/g6.htm>