

ASP Safety Alert Network Compliance & Authorisations

Alert Number: SA08_22

11 July 2022

Subject: MEWP Fatality Mareeba

Key Messages

Many distractions can arise onsite, such as using a mobile device, so it is imperative that workers remain aware of their surroundings when working in close proximity to heavy vehicles and roads.
Workers should ensure they are visible to the operator of vehicle when they are moving.
Vehicle operators should use a spotter and not rely solely on reversing sensors and cameras.

On the 13th of January 2022 two Queensland network employees had just completed tying in conductors to a newly installed pole ~2hrs drive west of the Mareeba Depot, just outside Chillagoe.

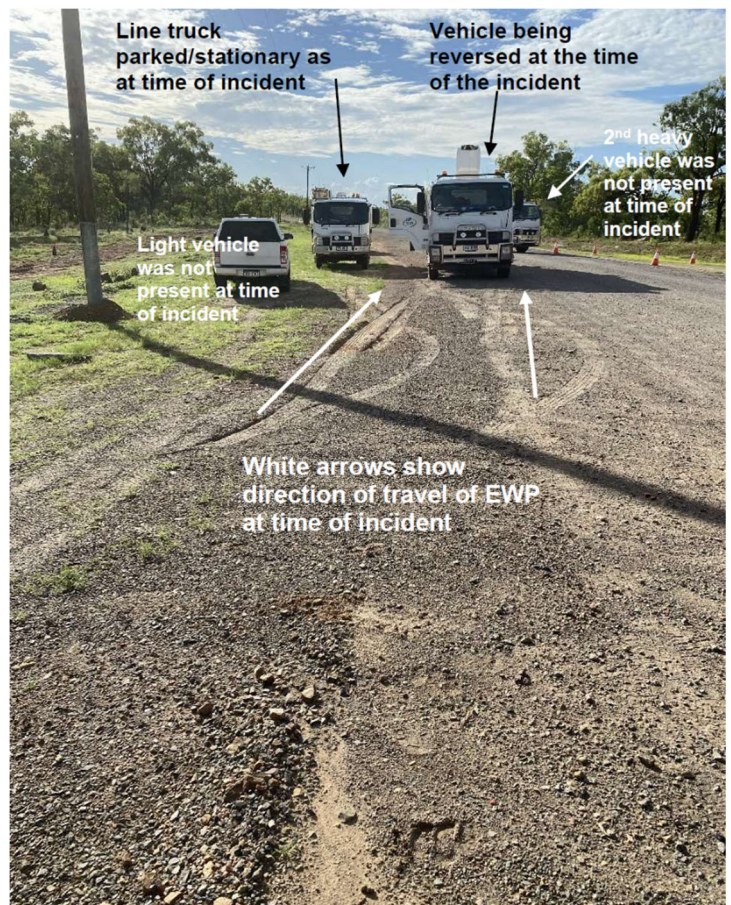
One of the two workers entered the cabin of the Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP), whilst the other proceeded on foot in the direction of a second line truck, that was parked behind and to one side of the MEWP (driver's rear side).

After walking away from the MEWP, the worker on foot received a phone call from another crew.

At this time, the driver in the MEWP was reversing and in the process of doing so, has made accidental contact with the other employee who was on foot.

Evidence indicates the contact occurred at the rear passenger side of the MEWP, resulting in fatal injuries.

An inspection of the vehicle confirmed the reversing camera, mirrors and reversing beeper were operational at the time of the incident. General visibility and weather conditions at the time were both clear.



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