

# ASP Safety Alert Network Compliance & Authorisations

Alert Number: SA01\_23

15 February 2023

## Subject: EWP Contact with Overhead Live Low Voltage Conductors

### Key Messages

**Be aware of the Minimum Safe Work Distances provided in the Ausgrid's Electrical safety Rules and ensure all workers/plant and equipment comply with minimum clearance rules. Each site-specific hazards and associated risks must be noted on your HAC or WHS risk register and controls outlines in the appropriate SWMS adhered to with appropriate minimum supervision.**

Dear ASP's

Whilst completing one of the multiple Service Wire replacements for the day, a Distribution Technician has attempted to reposition the Elevated Work Platform (EWP) basket from outside the Low Voltage (LV) Overhead Distributor "C" phase conductor to the "B" phase Overhead conductor. In doing so, the "Fly Jib Knuckle" EWP boom contacted the LV Overhead "C" phase conductor causing the conductor to come into contact with the LV Overhead "B" phase conductor.

This subsequently resulted in the "C" phase distributor fuse to fail leading to the interruption of electricity supply to customers fed from the "C" phase distribution mains.

### Causes / Contributing factors:

- Sufficient clearance was not maintained between the EWP boom and the Live LV Mains
- The Safety Observer did not have direct line of sight of the EWP boom whilst observing the Operator



### Key Insights and Learning Opportunities:

- When undertaking minor work tasks of the same type at different locations, a new hazard conversation must be added to the initial HAC (or a new HAC) for every new location. This is to identify, discuss and record additional site-specific hazards and the appropriate controls which may not have been required at the previous site.
- EWP operators must remain aware of the EWP bucket and supporting boom positioning **at all times**
- Work must **immediately pause** if the Safety Observer is unable to maintain clear vision of the live work task and/or the EWP's positioning when in close proximity of live LV mains.
- If the Safety Observer is unable to maintain a clear line of site to the live work task or safe approach distances to live mains, a second Safety Observer must be used.

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