



Safety Alert

INCIDENT TITLE: Helmet Falling From Height

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT: 1st July 2016

INCIDENT DETAIL

A contractor was working from a man bucket removing the dropper cables connecting the overhead lines down to the main unit transformer below.

He had tied off the dropper to the man bucket to prevent the dropper falling. Whilst leaning forward his helmet slid forward and fell approximately 11 metres to the transformer platform below.

The contractor was wearing a large woollen hat and as such the helmet was sitting higher than desirable on the contractor's head. There was not a chin strap on the contractor's helmet.

A drop zone had been formed below the work area as a control measure in case something was inadvertently dropped. This control measure proved effective.

The Contractor was issued with a new helmet and a chin strap.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The following are requirements for working at height:

- People working at height must wear helmets designed for working at height, fitted with a strong chin strap.
- When working at height a drop zone needs to be in place and entry to this drop zone needs to be controlled at all times.
- Assess the relevant risks before working at height, including the potential for equipment, plant or clothing to be dropped, and preparing a heights rescue plan.
- Consider the need to tether tools or items to avoid unplanned drops.

BEST PRACTICE

Meridian has issued Petzel Vertex Best climbing style helmets to all Meridian staff trained in working at heights. These are fully enclosed helmets suitable for electrical environments plus they have a strong chin strap.

PHOTOGRAPHS



IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS

Ensure staff and contractors working at height have suitable helmets with chin straps.

Helmet straps should be designed to stay secure during a fall (not designed to come undone when yanked).

This Safety Alert is issued by the Corporate Safety & Health Team. For further information please contact:

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