

SAFETY ALERT

Shared Learning's

INCIDENT TITLE:

Avanti Service lift Incident - Safety Brake Lift Cable becoming snagged

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

Friday 11th Nov 2016 1305 hrs

INCIDENT DETAIL :

While ascending TUK 203 at Te Uku Wind Farm a work party that consisted of two experienced technicians noticed that the lift was making a strange noise. They were about 2/3rd's the way up from the second tower section approx. 60 meters from the ground.

They immediately stopped and vacated the lift to inspect what was wrong. Upon inspection they found that the safety brake wire had got caught around one of the guide wire support brackets preventing the lift from traveling up. (Please see photo below)

LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:

Upon further investigation it has been identified that this has happened before at another wind farm with a similar lift. It is mainly due to high winds causing movement at the top of the turbine. This then causes the increased probability of both the drive and safety brake wire becoming fail around the guide wire brackets.

To mitigate this risk the initial recommendations as follows:

1. To make all users aware of this issue.
2. During the pre-use check have a good look up the tower to see if cables are failed.
3. During ascent if two people in lift the non-operator to look up to ensure wires are not failed during operation.

Meridian engineering team along with the manufacture are currently looking at further ways to prevent reoccurrence of the wires becoming snagged.

INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :

Due to the lift being so close to the support bracket the wire had gone tight preventing it from being freed safely.

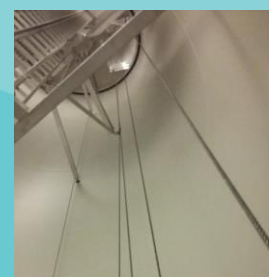
The technicians then decided to send the lift down empty to release some of the tension on the safety brake cable enabling them to free from the bracket.

They then locked and tagged the lift out of service and escalated to their manager.

The service provider Avanti have been booked in to inspect both the cable and the brake to ensure no damage has occurred.

Until such time of this inspection the lift remains out of service

PHOTO:



Photos of Cable caught around bracket

The Corporate Safety and Health Team are currently working on systems to support the above learnings. If interested in viewing the full investigation report for this incident, it can be found in:

Safety Manager Id Number 679550. If you do not have access to Safety manager contact a member of Meridian's CSH or Wind Maintenance & Development team



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