

OVERHEAD POWERLINE ENCROACHMENT

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DESCRIPTION:

Electricity from a 15,000-volt overhead powerline damaged a mud tank and trailer as they were being transported. The line and load were measured four days prior and deemed within the safe distance as per provincial OH&S regulations. However, a wind storm occurred the night before the tank move and the power pole had shifted, causing the line to sag. When the truck drove underneath, the overhead powerline arced on the roof of the mud tank. The tank and trailer sustained extensive damage, and while the driver remained safe, this had the potential to be a very serious incident.



A windstorm the night before caused a power pole to shift and the overhead powerline across the road to sag



The electricity from the overhead line went through the truck and exited the sidewall of the steel-belted tire



The hole in the ground shows that the pole shifted significantly in the windstorm

CAUSE OF INJURY OR LOSS:

A violent wind storm moved the power pole, causing the line to sag more than 0.7m so that it was no longer a safe distance from the load being transported. In addition, the pole's anchor line was at a 90 degree angle, so the pole was not properly supported.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Line height was not measured immediately prior to transporting the load
- No spotter was used

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Include conducting a hazard assessment of travel route prior to transportation of equipment
- Mark and measure all power lines prior to equipment movement
- Ensure the document containing line measurements and locations is on site and that those measurements are communicated to all personnel
- Pre-travel the route to ensure all appropriate signage is in place
- Re-measure height of line immediately prior to moving equipment
- Use a spotter equipped with two-way communications
- Be aware of provincial guidelines on overhead powerlines, and safe distances
- Contact the Owner for any overhead line concerns, including reporting of incidents