

SAFETY ALERT

Incident Title:

SA Power Networks (SAPN) cable stay destroyed

Date of Incident:

May 2016

Incident Description and Details:

A machine operator was working on a project during night works when, to avoid hitting a conduit, he edged the machine forward and made contact with what he thought was a survey peg. However, it was actually a stobie pole stay which then recoiled and came into contact with the overhead powerlines.

This resulted in a power outage to the immediate area.

SAPN was immediately notified and power was restored within a couple of hours.

Recommendations/Lessons:

- Contractor to ensure all staff including new personnel are aware of site conditions and hazards.
- Light towers to be operational in accordance with SWMS, prior to nightfall.
- Stobie pole and cable stay locations are marked to ensure they are visible particularly if working near them at night.
- Discussion of the incident at the next start up and toolbox meeting.
- Identify and risk assess the hazards of a site when you arrive at a site.
- Ensure contractors understand and use their SWMS.
- Discuss and highlight site specific hazards at toolbox meetings.

