



## Falling petrol auger drill causes serious injury

A team of linesmen and a joiner were involved in a LV overhead refurbishment scheme. The linesmen were using a MEWP, and were in the process of disconnecting an underground service at the top of a pole when a petrol driven auger, with the auger drill bit fitted, became detached from its temporary fixing to the outside of the MEWP bucket. The drill fell 4 metres and penetrated the joiner's neck, embedding itself roughly 8 inches, and narrowly missing his spine and heart. The injured joiner was admitted to hospital where the auger bit had to be surgically removed, and was in intensive care overnight. Mobility in his left arm is restricted due to the trauma, but is not expected to be permanent, but full rehabilitation is likely to be protracted.



## Learning Points

1. Minimise the tools and equipment required when working at height
2. Ensure exclusion zones are established around the point of work
3. Nominate a dedicated person to control the work area (from the ground) while work is being undertaken at height
4. When working from a MEWP equipment should be stored inside the bucket. Do not fabricate temporary solutions to attach tools and equipment to the outside of the MEWP bucket

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