vodafone

Focus Alert

Event Summary:

During a routine microwave installation work activity, an operative working on Vodafone's Network suffered a minor injury.

The minor injury occurred when the injured operatives was climbing passed the open anti-climb. As the operative climbed beyond the open anti-climb, the operatives pole belt, which was hanging from the operative's harness, snagged on the open anti-climb.

As the operative continued to climb, not realising the pole belt was entangled. The anti-climb device closed; the spikes of the anti-climb then making contact with the operative's leg.

Event Findings:

The findings from the incident indicate that the pole belt hanging from the harness was a casual factor. If the pole belt was secured in a way that it did not leave a trailing loop, it would not have been able to snag on the anti-climb with such ease.

The root cause to this event, has been assessed during investigation as a design casual factor. Anti-climb or similar hatches that are installed on telecoms structures, do not 'generally' lock the anti-climb in the open position. This allows the anti-climb or similar hatch, off the potential to close in unintended and uncontrolled situations.

This hazard is a known industry hazard, as small number of similar incidents across the industry have occurred during the last 24-months.

Event Preventative Actions:

All persons climbing on Vodafone's network should be briefed on the hazards of anti-climb or similar hatches potentially closing in an uncontrolled manner. All climbers on Vodafone network should further be reminded of ensuring good climbing admin, of items that are hanging from the harness.

During the design stages, all designers during the risk assessment process must identify all hazards and apply the design principles. Uncontrolled closure of hatches or anti-climb is an identified industry hazard. The designers must risk assess where preventing this uncontrolled closure is required and design in the likes of engineering controls to prevent incident from occurring.