



Zero Fatalities  
 Zero Lost Time  
 Zero Road/Speed Incidents  
 Zero Environmental Incidents  
 Zero Tolerance of Unsafe Behaviours & Practices



# PF Olsen Toolbox Safety Alert 4

|  |                                       |
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| <b>Date:</b> 8 February 2019                 | <b>Focus Group:</b> Machine Operators |
| <b>Topic:</b> Machine Use Around Power Lines | <b>Issued by:</b> Hamish Macpherson   |

**Incident:** An 11-kV power line was struck while shifting a hauler. The height of the line in relation to the top of the hauler pole had been miscalculated. The crew were 4 staff down and the ‘planned route’ had become unsuitable due to uneven terrain and wet areas on the track. The operator was working alone and focusing on the narrow road ahead to prevent a tip-over.

**Injury Details:** Nil to operator and machine, however, the power line required repair.

**Risk Awareness:** A live power line presents a serious risk of electrocution and/or fire. While a situation or hazard may ordinarily be low risk, a ‘change’ factor (a.k.a. upset conditions) can alter the risk profile dramatically.

**Safe Behaviour:** The legally required machine separation distance (min. 4 meters) was not properly considered or measured in this case. Operations that have machines near live power lines must be carefully planned, have all appropriate signage, and have an observer e.g. in this case, walking alongside and communicating with the operator.

**For Site Manager use** (print this document and then complete):

This safety alert is relevant to my site? Yes or No (circle one)

If yes, complete the following actions:

1. This safety alert has been discussed with employees and operators
2. I have placed this safety alert on the site notice board or in the safety file

**Site Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** / /  
 (signature)