

Learning from Incidents (LFI)

South Africa NOV RBA - Service Champion Injured By Falling Object (Solar Panel from canopy roof)

SOUTH AFRICA NOV CO RBA - SERVICE CHAMPION INJURED BY FALLING OBJECT (SOLAR PANEL)

MOBILITY

JULY 2024

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Mobility Territory Managers, Sales & Operations, L2 Partners, L3 Contractors, Retailers and their staff, Engineering Team and Real Estate Team

WHAT HAPPENED

- On the 07th of July 2024, at approximately 16:37 PM, during extremely strong windy conditions, solar panels on the canopy roof of the Sedibeng Service Station in the South African city of Qwa Qwa came loose and one of the rows fell.
- The solar panels fell onto the forecourt where the Service Champion was refuelling a customer's vehicle. Fortunately, the panel only slightly injured him in the leg as it hit the back of the bakkie/vehicle first.
- The injuries were treated in hospital by suturing the wound. In addition to the injuries of the Service champion,, the customer's vehicle was also slightly damaged.

ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS

- *(Real Estate Team)* How do you involve Engineering in the early stages for any deployment at sites like solar panel, Co-locators etc?
- *(Engineering Team)* What do you consider when conducting Design Risk Assessment, Fenceline Risk Assessment when there is a new change to the site? e.g. new speed humps, solar panels etc?
- *(Engineering and Site Team)* How do you ensure that all risk controls identified during work planning stage till close out phase are updated and understood by the site staff?
- *(Site Team)* Do you know what you need to do when weather conditions changes drastically while working on the forecourt e.g. heavy rains, strong winds?
- *(Site Team)* What are the necessary emergency response precautions needed to be followed when a service champion is injured on the forecourt?

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INSIGHTS

- Maintenance Program - Market to develop a maintenance strategy with supplier for solar panel for adequate health checks.
- Winds in this location were more than 142km/h leading this row of solar panels to get "Dislodged from the roof"
- The solar panel installation were deployed by an approved supplier and covered other sites in the last 2 years.

FOLLOW UP FROM REFLECTIVE ENGAGEMENT

- Work with supplier for making safe other sites and providing the additional barriers for similar risk sites (With high wind speed risks)
- Service Champion Big Rules "I promise to stay forecourt safe". High wind speed to be factored in the risk at sites.
- ERP readiness at sites and its importance during such incidents.
- Intervene when you spot an unsafe condition or act. Report proactively.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Using Management of change (MOC) for new equipment deployment at sites backed with risk assessment and a clear maintenance strategy.
- Involvement of the local TA3 Engineer or selection of a technically competent person to help drive the above actions and the overall technical assurance on design and quality of installation
- Develop an inspection plan in line with the supplier recommendation and plan execution through competent parties for solar panel installations and document dates and actions thereof.
- Extra assessment on Sites with high wind speeds close or above the operational window of the solar panels to select additional barriers and possible flat to ground installation to prevent impact in such conditions.(Currently 45-degree angle)
- Assess inclement weather risks on site and communicate (inclusion into the site ERP)

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IMAGES - EXTENT OF DAMAGE



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CCTV FOOTAGE



RECTIFICATION AT SITE PHOTOS

the panels have been replaced



The section that been repaired been braced with a cable attached to the purlen



The frame has also been braced with three cross members, the third one is not visible



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Subject Toolbox Talk:	South Africa NOV CO RBA - Service Champion Injured By Falling Object (Solar Panel from Canopy roof)
Date Conducted:	

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