

Firm fined after worker killed by overhead power line

A company has been fined £400,000 after a worker was killed when the grab arm on the vehicle he was operating came into contact with an 11kv overhead power line.

Luton Crown Court heard how, on 16 September 2016, Darren Waterman, a driver employed by Just Grab Services to unload material at Fillets Farm, Hunsdon, Hertfordshire, was using the grab arm when it came into contact the line. The site was managed by Options Energy Resource LLP.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Options Energy Resource LLP had identified the risk from OHPL's in risk assessments but had failed to implement them and adequately plan construction work and to train its employees.

Options Energy Resource LLP of Hanbury Drive, Leystonstone, London pleaded guilty to breaching section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 and was fined £400,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17,242.33.

HSE inspector Samantha Wells said *"This was a tragic and wholly avoidable incident, caused by the failure of Options Energy Resource LLP to implement safe systems of work and to ensure that health and safety documentation was communicated and followed."*

"Every year in the UK, two people are killed and many more are injured when machinery comes into contact with, or close proximity to, overhead power lines".



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