

For issue to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (Employees and Contract Partners)

SHE COMMUNICATION

Equipment Storage

What happened?

While travelling to a work site a team member noticed that a number of poles had been laid on the verge in preparation for replacement work. Thinking back to an incident in 2017 in another Distribution Network Operators (DNO) area, where a 12-year-old was fatally injured by an unstable wooden pole rolling down a slope, the poles were inspected and found to be lacking the required chocks to prevent slippage and rolling onto the carriageway. The team who were carrying out the preparation work were contacted, coached and remedial action taken to make the poles secure.

Learning:

This communication is being issued as a reminder of the steps that need to be taken to ensure that equipment is stored safely and securely to mitigate the likelihood of a potentially fatal incident occurring.

Action:

- Equipment should not be stored in the public domain unless absolutely necessary and with the permission of the land owner.
- Equipment should never be stored in the public domain for prolonged periods of time.
- Regular checks should be made on equipment that is stored in the public domain to help ensure it remains safe and secure until used.
- As a precautionary measure, additional checks should be completed on equipment currently stored in the public domain to ensure it is safe and secure.
- Equipment stored in the public domain must always be positioned so that it does not present danger to people, animals or the environment, e.g. on flat ground, away from water courses, avoid road-side locations if possible, etc.
- If equipment is stored in the public domain, security measures must be put in place to help ensure the equipment is not interfered with, e.g. fencing, chocks under poles, signage, etc.
- For more information on storage of Poles please refer to SHE Requirements for the Storage of Wood Poles at Permanent and Temporary Locations ([PR-NET-SUP-001](#))
- If any issues are found when checks are completed – appropriate immediate corrective action must be taken. See it, Sort it, Report it.

Our Licence:

At SSEN we are fortunate to be provided with the licence we need to go home safe every day. Our primary objective is to deliver safe outcomes for our people, our customers and the environment and on this we will not compromise.

At Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks – if it's not safe, we don't do it.

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| Communication by (✓) | Managers | ✓ | Notice board | ✓ | Tool-box talk | ✓ | Team brief | ✓ |
| Communication complete by (✓) | 1 week | ✓ | 2 weeks | | 1-month | | 2-months | |
| Issued by: Iain Graham, Head of SHE | | | | | Date of issue: 16/04/2021 | | | |