



PUBLIC SAFETY

Underground Supplies in the Public Road Corridor

Coroners Inquiry 5 August 2009
Fatality May 2008

Caused by metal waratah stake making
contact with live low voltage underground
cable.



Coroners Recommendations

- That relevant utilities work together to promote community awareness that grass berm's are not treated as private property and that underground services pose very real risk to public safety.
- That the line company increase efforts to communicate to the community the dangers of underground live power cables
- That the lines company provide a general warning that metal stakes should not be used in the vicinity where underground cables are laid

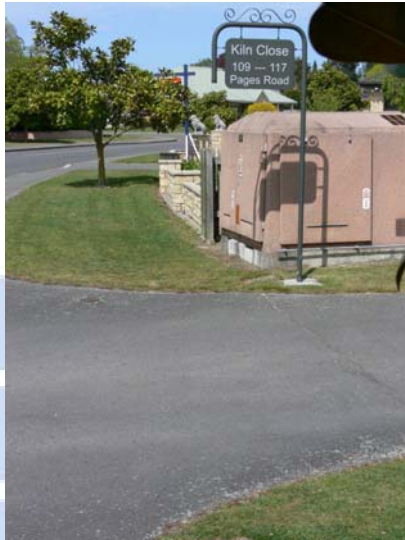


Coroners Recommendations continued

- That the lines company provide written warnings to adjacent properties where power poles have been removed and undergrounding works and reinstatement work (including sowing new grass) is to be carried out
- That the Road controlling Authority's requirements for reinstatement be reviewed to ensure that the intent of the above recommendations is met



Company Response



- Concern that this type of incident could happen to us
- Important to take notice of coroner recommendations.



Company Actions

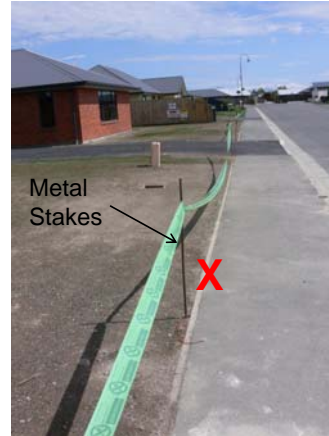
- Discussion and written notification to local District Council.
- Contractors Information workshop attended by over 100 persons. The topic of underground services including power and optic fibre was covered. Specific warning against the use of metal stakes around underground cables.

In addition to company management we particularly targeted the workers who operate the levers and shovels.



Company Actions Continued

- New undergrounding and conversion: Notification letters including caution not to use metal stakes of any kind when protecting newly sown grass.
- An offer from the company to arrange supply of suitable stakes



(Example Notification to affected Customers)

Footpath Reinstatement

Dear Sir/Madam

Electricity Ashburton is currently in the process of completing underground works in your street and in the future will re-sow grass areas of the footpath.

Please do not use metal stakes of any kind to protect the newly sown lawn areas owing to risk of hitting newly installed cables.

If you would like a temporary fence erected around the newly sown lawn

please contact our foreman on site who can arrange the supply of suitable stakes.

In the event that you are unhappy with any proposed arrangements please contact XXXXXXX on 3079800



Unknown cabling in Public Road Corridor

- Electricity Ashburton has become aware of unknown underground power cabling installed in the public road corridor.
- Some private irrigation pumping systems cross public roads with underground electric cables likely being installed in conjunction with water pipes.
- Application for these road crossings are directed to the local authority and are generally expected for pipes only.
- Where underground electric cables are installed there arises the possibility of live underground power cables in the public road corridor not publicly recorded.

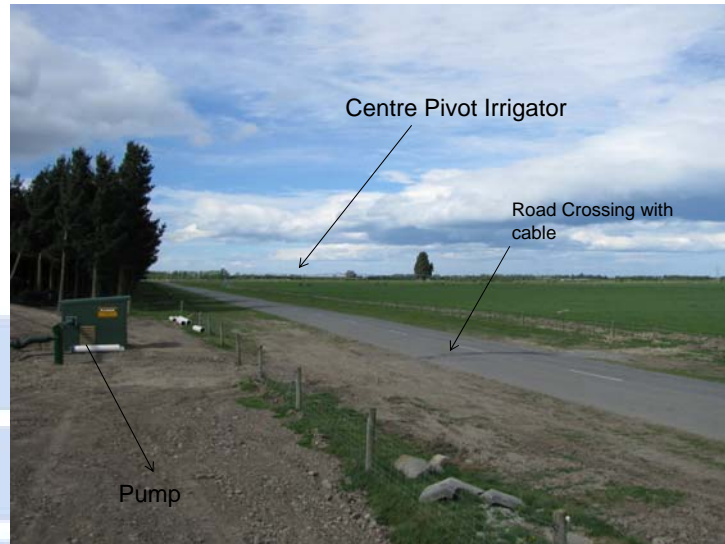


Unknown cabling in Public Road Corridor

- Contractors operating in the public road corridor request underground cable information from lines companies expecting cable plans to be accurate and complete. The possibility of unknown cables in the public road corridor brings about a potential hazard to operators and the public.



Unknown cabling in Public Road Corridor



Questions ?

