

# Safety Notice

Notice to all network stakeholders.

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## Cable Identification / Spiking

### Background

An incident occurred on our Network recently when a worker using a double insulated sabre saw mistakenly cut into an HV cable which was believed to be isolated and de-energized. The cable had not been positively identified (by uncovering it along its length), nor had spiking of the cable occurred.

The worker was wearing full PPE and HV gloves, and therefore was uninjured, however was taken back to the service provider's depot for observation and later taken home.

### Leading up to the event:

- A fault was determined on a LV circuit and a Thumper was used to identify the location of the fault and the ground surface was marked accordingly.
- A cable locate tool was used by the service provider; the result aligned with the Thumper used earlier.
- Both ends of an LV cable were isolated and the crew dug and exposed a section of paper lead cable which appeared damaged, leading the crew to assume it was the cable to be worked on. However two further cables were shown on the GIS in close proximity, but were not visible in the trench.

### What is the Risk:

- Although the cable fault machine indicated the fault location the crew were not able to positively identify the cable visually from termination to termination and relied solely on the mark out and the cable uncovered beneath it.
- HV and LV Paper Lead cables appear very similar with no distinguishing factors between them.

### Action Required / Managing the Risk:

**"Where there is doubt as to whether a cable is HV or LV the cable shall be spiked"** (unless pressurised).

This is stipulated in both of the below references:

- SM-EI 3.731 - Power Cables (Work on equipment requiring special precautions)
- The Line Mechanics and Cable Jointers Handbook 16.4 – Reading Plans, Cable Location and Identification

**Please distribute to all relevant staff immediately**

**Questions?** Sean Heasman, Health & Safety Business Partner | [sean.heasman@powerco.co.nz](mailto:sean.heasman@powerco.co.nz)