

Outrigger Pad Failure

Date of Issue:	07/08/2025	HSEQ Alert No:	HS.03-216.HNHS
Incident Type:	Outrigger Pad Failure During Pole Lift		
Site:	117 Gladstone Road, Masterton		
Plant Type:	Line Truck - Outrigger Pad		

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

During the removal of an existing 11-meter pole, the outrigger pad on one of the line trucks suffered a structural failure, breaking in half under load. The failure occurred as pressure increased during the lifting operation, causing the pad to fracture. The lift was immediately suspended, and the surrounding area was secured to eliminate any further risk. There were no injuries, and both the truck and pole remained stable throughout the incident.

CAUSE OF INCIDENT

Inadequate ground assessment and preparation for lifting operations in soft or unstable conditions.

While the immediate cause was the wet, soft ground compromising load distribution, the **underlying issue** is that the ground conditions were either not sufficiently assessed or the equipment setup did not account for the environmental risks, leading to the pad failure under load.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Train operators and crew on identifying unstable ground conditions. Include this in competency refreshers and toolbox talks, with visuals/examples of soft or saturated terrain.
- Have engineered temporary ground stabilisation methods on standby (e.g. bog mats, steel plates).
- Deploy larger or reinforced outrigger pads designed for soft ground
- Inspect outrigger pads for signs of wear, cracks, or fatigue before each use.
- Reschedule work if ground conditions are deemed unsafe due to moisture saturation



WELLBEING

After any incident, hold a supportive debrief session to discuss what happened. Encourage open communication about site conditions and equipment concerns. Focus on learning, not blame.

This HSEQ Alert must be posted on all workplace notice boards and used by Supervisors as a subject for discussion at Toolbox Meetings.

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