



# Electric Shock to a worker who contacted a broken HV dropper cable (SA573)

*High Potential Event / Critical Risk: Live Electricity*

Incident	Description	
<b>Event Date:</b> 27/10/2025	<b>Time:</b> 08:47 AM	<b>Location:</b> SH1, Himitangi, Manawatu-Whanganui
<b>Investigation Status:</b>	Ongoing	<b>NP Reference / External Reference:</b> OCC16052 / ID: 1456882



Image 1: Shows dropper cable loose. Image 2: Shows broken cable has come away from link

## What Happened?

A Northpower worker attended a fault and, while testing low-voltage (LV) fuses, inadvertently contacted a high-voltage (HV) transformer dropper cable that had come away from the DDO and was lying across the LV arm, resulting in an electric shock.

The Northpower worker was wearing full PPE (helmet, safety glasses, LV work gloves, arc rated clothing, LV tested footwear). He had also fitted the Northpower ladder anchor system, his harness and pole strap.

The initial reaction from the shock caused the worker recoil back into their harness. They then descended the ladder and notified the incident to their supervisor.

## What could have happened?

This was a high energy incident and could have resulted in a serious injury or fatality. Contact with the HV dropper cable likely induced voltage between 400V and 6.6KV, not a direct 11KV hit, and posed very serious risk to the worker.



# SAFETY ALERT

## Health & Safety

Northpower

### Actions Required / Messages:

The event underscores the **Critical Risk of Live Electricity** and the inherent dangers our people face daily.

It also highlights the importance of:

- Pre-climb visual inspections
- Situational Awareness
- Lone worker protocols
- Robust training on hazard identification and application of direct controls

<b>Supporting References:</b>	<a href="#">Testing Poles Before Climbing Safety Guideline.pdf</a> <a href="#">Attachment while working on Poles and Structures Safety Guideline.pdf</a> <a href="#">Working at Heights SWMS Procedure.pdf</a> <a href="#">Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Procedure</a>
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