TRANSPOWER

SAFETY ALERT!

26 August 2026

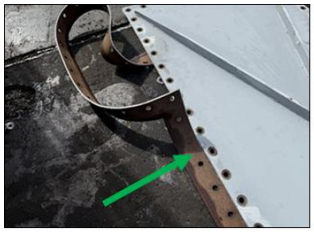


Survey for Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) in Transpower Assets Before Disturbance

WHAT HAPPENED?

Work was carried out on substation equipment that had been assumed to contain asbestos by the original survey, based on asset documents. This created a potential exposure risk for workers and highlighted a failure to adequately identify and manage asbestos hazards in accordance with Transpower requirements.

Before work commenced, the project team consulted the National Asbestos Register, which contained no information confirming or presuming the presence of asbestos within the asset. The absence of asbestos information was interpreted as evidence that the asset was asbestos-free. As a result, no additional assessment was undertaken to verify the asbestos risk, and the required controls were not implemented before work began.







Note: Not the actual asset in the incident. Photos show gaskets in transformers that are potentially ACM.

ROOT CAUSES

- Our process allowed work to commence without Transpower's Environmental Panel carrying out a pre-works asbestos risk assessment. Equipment installed before 2000 is more likely to contain asbestos and needs assessment.
- The National Asbestos Register did not accurately reflect that the asset was assumed to contain asbestos, due to issues with the system and earlier surveys.

LEARNINGS

- **Treat the asbestos register as a guide, not a guarantee. Unknown asbestos may still be present in older buildings and equipment, even where records indicate previous removal or there are no records.**
- **Work involving pre-2000 buildings or equipment is at a higher risk of encountering asbestos and should be managed according to our processes.**
- **If asbestos may be present, stop and manage the risk of disturbance. Arrange for testing through the Environment Panel.**
- **Records in Maximo Assets used to populate the National Asbestos Register need to better reflect our identification of the asbestos risk at our sites.**

Name	Andrew Stevenson
Position	Senior Asset Planner
Mobile	021 192 0768
Email	Andrew.Stevenson@transpower.co.nz
Maximo Ref	185242
Incident Date	Early 2026