

Date Issued: 1 June 2016

Incident Title: Pole Collapse

Details:

On May 19 2016, a Balclutha based line crew were at a site at Beaumont to replace a pole. An assessment was made of the pole condition prior to a line mechanic placing a ladder against the pole, to give access to a low voltage line attached to the pole. After the low voltage wires were cut away, the pole collapsed while the line mechanic was still on the ladder and attached to the pole.

The line mechanic suffered no major injuries but was given first aid treatment by the other members of the crew but for bruising and discomfort from whiplash.

The site was locked down until Worksafe inspectors had visited. The work was completed later in the day.



Recommendations/Learnings:

- All poles must be assessed prior to climbing – a pole that is not red-tagged may still be unsafe to climb.
- Where there is any doubt about the integrity of a pole then it must be accessed by using an EWP and/or securely held with a crane prior to any work being done on it – especially before any change of loading on the pole.
- Poles assessed as unsafe to climb must be immediately red-tagged and System Control notified of the details

Immediate Action Taken:

- ICAM investigation underway.
- Learnings from the ICAM will be shared as soon as possible.

Contact: Jim Matheson, Field Services Manager p: 03 208 3900 e: jmatheson@powernet.co.nz

