

1080 Dropped Near Worksite

EVENT



Two traffic controllers involved in the Upper Diversity Fibre Cable lay project have come in contact with drift from a 1080 drop in the Murchison area.

On the morning of Friday 19th August 2016 an ElectroNet employee and Contractor worker noticed a helicopter flying above hills nearby to their worksite. The helicopter appeared to be dropping pellets. Shortly after a cloud of residue drifted across the area where they were working and settled on the road and a parked vehicle. Both workers detected a strange smell and an unusual taste in their mouths.



They contacted the Project Manager, who then contacted the Poison Helpline who advised seeking medical attention if the workers felt unwell or nauseous.

The West Coast Regional Council were contacted and advised this matter would be investigated. The Regional Council advised the Health Council.

This incident shows the importance of contacting Regional Council to gain any information on planned 1080 drops if working near DOC land.

Both workers were checked out and returned to work the following Monday.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- The 2 workers involved washed hands and faces, rinsed out mouths several times.
- Rang Poison Helpline who advised seeking medical attention if felt unwell or nauseous
- Regional Council was contacted and advised of incident.
- ElectroNet commenced an ICAM investigation