



# FIRST ALERT

Date 13/02/2015

## Pulley block failure during 220 kV cable installation

### EVENT

A worker sustained serious injuries to his legs when a pulley block, which was being used as part of the rigging set up for winching a 220 kV cable into position, suffered a catastrophic failure. The failed pulley block flew some distance and struck the worker in the lower legs. The worker has fractures to both legs and has undergone surgery. A long recovery time is expected.



The failed pulley block



Example of a complete pulley block

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Work was stopped and the injured person attended to. Emergency services and Worksafe NZ were contacted and attended the scene.
- Investigations have been initiated by all parties involved.
- Until the root cause has been identified and as a precaution, Powerhouse brand 380mm pulley blocks are not be used on Transpower sites.
- For all other pulley block use, ensure that rigging loads are engineered and components are selected within the safe working load (SWL) and appropriate for the application and that workers are kept clear of the line of fire during winching operations.