

SAFETY ALERT

Safety Alert Number: 2015/03

Date:	Wednesday – 02/04/2015
Business Location:	All Field Service Providers
Subject:	Unauthorised removal of pole tags

Message: During an asset check by an asset engineer in Maymorn Road, Upper Hutt yesterday, it was discovered that someone unknown has cut off regulatory yellow tags on multiple poles.

One of the poles was inspected by Northpower a month ago, the tag was found to be missing. The yellow tag status was confirmed and the tag was then replaced, only for this new tag to have disappeared between then and yesterday.

Replacement tags have been fitted to the poles found to have been vandalised.

The risk of fatal or serious harm injuries from a pole failure is well known within the industry and the tagging process is in place to alert network personnel to potential danger.

Actions required:

Please remain vigilant in your pre-climb checks in relation not only to the pole condition, but to any markings that may have been tampered with.

Any pole found to have a regulatory tag stub of any colour, which has had the tag cut off remains a tagged pole and must not be climbed.

This should be reported as a near miss within your incident reporting system and also raised as defect.

The pole number and test result status must be checked and the tag replaced according to the pole database.

Wellington Electricity can clarify the tag status of any pole where there is uncertainty.

