




Lessons Learnt – LL053

Failed Namu Full Tension Sleeve

This Alert is applicable to:

Fibre		Distribution	✓	Transmission		Wider Business	
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Date of issue: 09/10/2015

Incident	Description
Date incident happened	18 August 2015
Where it happened	SH33, Paengaroa, Bay of Plenty
What happened	<p>A Namu to Namu full-tension sleeve was used to join a Namu to a Squirrel conductor (both conductors are 6.33mm outside diameter). Until now this has been an acceptable practice. While applying tension the conductor, when raising it back up into the air, on one side pulled out of the sleeve.</p>  <p>This photo shows the shorter Namu to Namu sleeves above the longer Squirrel to Squirrel sleeve</p> <p>Initial Actions Taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer Squirrel full-tension sleeves were used to complete the task; • The shorter Namu to Namu full-tension sleeves were removed from local stores and vehicles; and • Failed crimps were sent away to the manufacturer for investigation into the integrity of the sleeve.
Why it happened	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conductor on one side pushed passed the centre block of the sleeve, resulting in the other side having inadequate room for being securely crimped; and 2. The Lineman had not measured each conductor against the crimp sleeve to ensure they were installed half way into the sleeve as required. <p>The supplier advised that the manufacturer will now ensure deeper central compressions are made into the middle of sleeves so that the inserted conductor cannot go past the halfway point.</p>
The important things you should remember about this	Only Squirrel full-tension sleeves may be used when connecting Namu to Squirrel conductor.
What you must do in future OR What will happen next	Check you are using the correct sleeve for the conductor Ensure you mark the conductor prior to inserting it into the sleeve and release the tension slowly after compression while checking the marks for any movement.
SM-EI Reference/Hazard Register ID	Northpower WRKINS—0104. Risk Register No.464 - Live line pulled out of crimped full tension sleeve
Released by:	David Ford, Operations Manager, Tauranga (please contact the author for further details)