

# SAFETY NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL NETWORK STAKEHOLDERS



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## SAFETY NOTICE

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014, a Powerco contractor was setting up to undertake a 33kv cross-arm replacement using a live line procedure.

As part of the setup activities, a lifting rig was attached to the vehicle mounted crane and moved into position. During this action, the lifting rig came into contact with the live 33kv road-side phase, causing the circuit to trip.

The subsequent investigation revealed a range of absent and failed defenses which contributed to the event. These included

- A safety observer was not used at the point where contact occurred
- Resource and logistics support to the crew was suboptimal
- The **Portable Temporary Earth** applied to the leg of the Hi-Ab did not completely mitigate the fault current flowing through the vehicle (note the carbon scorch marks on the road surface in the upper photo)

The investigation also identified specific defenses that worked effectively. The operator was standing on a metal operator platform. This platform created an **Equi-Potential Zone** which resulted in the operator being completely unharmed. Additionally, separation of the other workers from the earth stake and connected vehicle served to prevent harm.

Powerco wishes to reinforce the importance of ensuring that in addition to other existing safety measures, appropriate **Equi-Potential Zones** mandated by industry best practice are applied to all tasks where risk of contact with electricity is present.



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