



# *Safety Advice 01-2005 (NZ)*

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## **FATAL INJURIES DURING 66kV LINE WORK**

Line work was being carried out to replace an armless angle strain pole on a 66kV transmission line. The circuit being worked on was isolated and earthed but there was an adjacent in-service 66kV circuit. The energised and de-energised circuits were on separate strain poles at the work site but shared common structures on adjacent spans.

During the process of raising the out of service conductor to its final position using a chain hoist and whilst standing on a pole step of the strain pole, a lineman received fatal injuries when this conductor came in contact with the other in service conductor two spans away from the work site.

There were driven earths at the work site along with station earths at each end of the line and driven earths further along the line.

Although the work party identified the adjacent in service line as a hazard, the potential hazard away from the work site was not identified.

A preliminary review of the earthing process used indicates that although the conductors were earthed to a driven earth stick, this earthing arrangement did not achieve an equipotential zone as recommended by SM-EI Rule 3.603 (f). At this point it is unknown as to what effect this would have had on the event that occurred - this is being further investigated.

A full investigation is underway and further details will be circulated as soon as they become available.

