



Safety Advice 04-2001 (NZ)

CHILD CLIMBING POLE

A six year old child climbed a metering structure to a point just below the air break fuse switch some 8 to 10 metres up the pole. The reason for this is unknown, but it is suspected it may have been the result of a dare. The child contacted the roadside conductor where it comes off the bottom of the ABFS to the carrier arm. The conductor was PVC covered but the insulation is not to full working voltage. The child contacted this conductor and caused a short circuit to earth. A flashover resulted and the child was thrown to the ground.

Observations

A risk assessment has been undertaken of the network in the immediate area around the accident site. The network structures meet current safety regulations.

Recommendations

In view of reports (subsequent to the accident) by residents in the area that children have been observed attempting to climb these structures, the following recommendations were made:

- Fitting of barbed wire around the two poles on the metering structure.
- Augmenting with barbed wire, the existing anti-climb barrier on the two pole substation.
- Fitting of a mesh barrier and wrapping of barbed wire on the two pole substation.
- Representatives of the network company visited the child's school to educate children regarding the dangers of climbing or interfering in any manner with electricity poles or equipment.