



## *Safety Advice 04-2008 (NZ)*

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### **Ladder Failure**

An extended ladder erected according to standard practice against a pole broke under the weight of a well-built line man. The ladder was wood-type, reinforced by fibreglass rods sealed in resin-covered groove recess in each leg. The ladder was subject to a regular inspection regime.

On investigation it appears that the resin had cracked in places and that this appears to have allowed the rod to slip along its length, reducing its ability to reinforce. It is understood that a variety of ladder brands and models incorporate this type of design.

The employer withdrew all ladders of this type from use, pending the outcome of an investigation. Any further available information will be advised in due course.

Employers are advised to check for signs of resin degradation or failure in this type of ladder and to be particularly vigilant in the inspection and withdrawal from service of defective items.

The EEA would appreciate feedback on the incidence of similar serious defects in this type of ladder.

See photos below.





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