



Safety Advice 07-2005 (NZ)

LADDER EVENT, INJURY ACCIDENT

A lineman fell approximately 15 metres from a tower while carrying out 220kV stringing work on the conductor end of a strain insulator.

The accident happened when the lineman was working from a standard hook type ladder while positioning the detached end of the ladder to facilitate work on the conductor end of a strain insulator.

The ladder unhooked from the attached end and fell approximately 15 metres to the ground with the lineman still attached to the ladder via his safety harness. He has serious neck and back injuries but is expected to make a full and complete recovery.

Contractors using these ladders are to comply with the following safety requirements. The ladders must be:

1. Adequately rated and used in accordance with the rating.
2. Inspected in accordance with standard tool inspection requirements.
3. Adequately attached to the structure, backed up with a safety strop or a suitable safety device to prevent a ladder detachment from the structure.
4. Lineman working on the ladder must be attached in accordance with company policy of full attachment while working aloft.

Please ensure your hook ladder use and management is revisited and complies with the above. A full investigation is being carried out on the accident and the results will be released once completed.