



Safety Advice 12-2008(a) (NZ)

This Safety Advice 12-2008(a) provides follow-up information to the original Safety Advice 12-2008. Section 2 below in this Advice 12-2008(a) outlines the preventive actions determined by the contractor for avoiding recurrence of similar incidents.

1. Brief Outline of What Happened:

- i. A live line crew of six men were replacing a Pi Pole Structure in a 110 kV Line.
- ii. They had successfully installed the new structures and completed the transfer of the live conductors.
- iii. The crew were in the process of removing the old 10m steel crossarm from the existing wooden poles.
- iv. The crossarm was being supported overhead by a truck mounted crane.
- v. The old structure was approximately 1metre away from, and directly inline with, the new structure
- vi. There were two Line Mechanics positioned at the top of each pole of the new structure to remove the through-bolts of the old crossarm
- vii. One through-bolt (Pole A) had been removed and a Line Mechanic was attempting to remove the through-bolt from the other pole, Pole B.
- viii. During this activity, the crossarm has slipped out of the gain of Pole A.
- ix. The slack in the slings plus the flex in the overhead truck mounted crane boom were sufficient for the old crossarm at Pole A end to encroach the MAD and a flashover occurred.

The Line Mechanic at Pole B received severe burns to 35% of his body – predominately his back and right shoulder. He is in a stable condition in Hospital.

2. Event Outcome: What the Contractor Has Done as a Result of the Event

- i. A backup safety support bracket is being developed to ensure there is total control over the movement of the crossarm when it is being removed.
- ii. The use of the backup safety bracket will be incorporated into all the appropriate liveline work procedures.
- iii. Refresher training for all liveline staff will be undertaken on the use of the backup safety bracket when removing crossarms.
- iv. This training will also reinforce the importance of maximising the LWMAD on all work tasks.
- v. All liveline pole replacement work will remain on hold until the safety bracket has been manufactured, trialled and the above refresher training is completed.

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