

# HSE Alert Form



Alert Number: **2014.10A - this alert supercedes Alert 2014.10. Please refer to the mark in the right margin for changes to the previous version**

<b>eSafe No</b>	INC-1115311	<b>Location</b>	Bundaberg	<b>Date</b>	16/03/2014
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## Description of Hazard/Incident *(What happened?)*

While setting up an extension ladder on a pole, the ladder operating rope broke causing an employee to over balance.

The purpose of this update is to provide additional information for inspection and repair of fibreglass ladders.

## Extent of Impact *(Details of injury, environmental harm, equipment damage, etc.)*

When the ladder operating rope broke, the employee fell backwards to the ground resulting in a back and neck injury.

## Key Facts *(What are the key facts ?)*

The rope that broke was a twisted 3 strand poly rope as illustrated in this photo.

A second occurrence of twisted 3 strand poly ladder rope breaking occurred on 18 March 2014 (INC-1115340).

Ergon Energy specifies 11mm Kernmantle rope, not poly rope.

**Kernmantle rope:** Constructed with its interior core (the kern) protected by a woven exterior sheath (mantle) designed to optimize strength, durability and flexibility. The core fibres provide the tensile strength, while the sheath protects the core from abrasion and sunlight.



## Actions *(Information on corrective actions implemented that may prevent harm and or assist others in preventing a similar occurrence)*

Supervisors and Line Managers are to arrange for immediate inspection of all ladder ropes. In particular, the inspection that the rope is Kernmantle of the correct size, runs freely through pulleys, has no cuts/frayed fibres with the end of ropes securely fitted.

Inspect ladders to ensure operating ropes are Kernmantle. Ladders not fitted with Kernmantle operating ropes are to be quarantined until repaired.

Head rope may be 8 mm nylon or polypropylene silver hawsner laid rope. This is to be inspected for suitability and acceptable condition.

Refer to [BS001404R154 Inspect Pole Climbing Apparatus Before Use Field Instruction](#) or the [Testing Procedure Manual - BS001701R113](#).

Replacement ropes are available from inventory.

- Kernmantle Ladder Rope IIN: 2430296 (fitting instructions and metal splice clips are supplied with the rope).
- Polypropylene Head Rope IIN: 2430288

A new rope may be fitted by arrangement with your usual testing / inspection services provider or competent tradesperson in your depot.

Ladder inspection and minor repair training is available. Safety Equipment Testing (non electrical) 4496.

## Contact for further Information

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