



Safety Advice 02-2006 (NZ)

LIVE LINE SWITCH INSTALLATION ACCIDENT NOTICE

- On Wednesday, 15 February 2006, a glove and barrier live line mechanic received an 11,000 volt electric shock. This happened while carrying out live line work to install a new switch.
- A local householder had asked the safety observer to move a vehicle so the householder could pass the elevated work platform (EWP). At this time the live line mechanic was working in the bucket of the EWP on the western side of the pole.
- It appears that while the safety observer was moving the vehicle, the third member of the team asked the live line mechanic in the bucket to move to the eastern side of the pole to fit the switch handle.
- The switch handle pipe was fitted into the switch handle bracket.
- The live line mechanic in the bucket then removed his safety gloves in the contact area.
- He made contact with the 11,000 volt conductor with the upper right side of his body while his left hand was in contact with the switch handle, resulting in an electric shock.
- On hearing the resulting noise, the safety observer and third man report that they saw the live line mechanic receiving an electric shock and initiated emergency procedures to de-energise the line, rescue the mechanic, apply first aid and contact emergency services.

Preliminary Findings

- The safety observer did not stop the work while he performed another task.
- Safety gloves were removed while in the contact area.
- Line insulation had moved exposing approximately 50mm of live line.