



# Significant Incident Advice

**For Distribution To ENERGEX Staff and Service Providers**

*The Following Information Has Been Supplied By ENERGEX - Penrose*

## **Description Of Incident:**

An 11 meter concrete pole (Busck type) broke in half whilst being unloaded from a delivery vehicle. **No injuries** were received by members of the workcrew or public.

## **Preliminary Investigation Outcome:**

A four person work crew were involved in the task of unloading two concrete poles from the deck of a delivery vehicle. A three metre long, two leg chain sling was attached to the swift lifts (imbedded lifting points). The first pole located on the footpath side of the delivery vehicle was unloaded and placed onto wooden support blocks located on the ground.

The second pole located on the drivers' side of the delivery vehicle was being lifted directly upwards in order to gain clearance over the top of the vehicle cabin when the centre of the pole between the chain swift lift attachment points disintegrated. This resulted in concrete being sprayed over the road and the pole sections contacting the ground.



## **Contributing factors:**

An ENERGEX / Vector / Busck investigation is currently underway and the outcomes of the investigation will be communicated when they become available.

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**Corrective Action Taken:**

- The remains of the pole were loaded onto the delivery vehicle and transported to the supplier and quarantined.
  - Pieces of concrete and debris were removed from the roadway.
  - The site was made safe and the job cancelled.
  - VECTOR issued a Safety Alert on Tuesday 2 March at 16.45 hours.
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**Recommendations:**

- All new concrete poles shall be visually inspected before being lifted for the following:
    1. Any cracks.
    2. Chips where steel reinforcement is exposed or chips where more than 50mm of concrete is missing.
    3. Bending or bows greater than 100mm on any face over the entire length of the pole.
    4. Any damage that may have been caused by forklifts or tie down chains.
  - Concrete poles which do not pass the visual inspection criteria as specified between 1 and 4 are to be tagged or marked as being "Condemned", removed from service and the manufacturer or supplier notified.
  - In addition to the above
    1. The **date of manufacture of all concrete** poles shall be noted on ENERGEX Form NZ-OH-FORM-002 "Work Activity Check sheet".
    2. For Auckland, only Busck concrete poles supplied directly from Busck shall be used.
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**Date:** 5 March 2004

**Signed:**

**Joe Spataro**  
HSE Manager - Corporate