



Safety Advice 06-2001 (NZ)

LINEWORKER SAFETY HARNESS WARNING

The following Safety Alert has been received from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, NSW Australia.

SAFETY ALERT WARNING ON LINEWORKER SAFETY HARNESS

The Chief Electrical Inspector (CEI), Mr Ian Graham, has issued an urgent '**Safety Alert**' for Lineworkers working at heights on or near live electrical apparatus.

This warning follows a recent fatality in which a Lineworker fell from a converted 132kv tower when the pole belt on his harness could not support his weight after a flashover occurred. It appears that the heat transfer may have been enough to melt the synthetic webbing of the pole strap that was supporting his weight.

While a 'Committee of Inquiry' has been established to investigate every aspect of this fatality and to report its findings, for the interim, the following procedure shall be followed:

- When climbing a tower the 'double lanyard attached climbing method' must be used.
- When working at heights in a stationary position on any supporting structure or apparatus, at least two points of attachment must be used.
- Consider Access Permit conditions as a first option.
- For all work near live electrical apparatus:
 - be aware of the nearest alive electrical apparatus,
 - assess that the 'limits of approach' can be maintained,
 - indicate/barrier off live electrical apparatus, and
 - ensure a safety observer is posted.

Ian K Graham
CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

14 June 2001