



## *Safety Advice 06-2005 (NZ)*

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### **NON-INJURY INCIDENT DURING REPLACEMENT OF EARTH WIRE**

A contractor was carrying out replacement of an earth wire on one side of a double circuit 110kV transmission line. The circuit on the side being worked on was isolated and earthed.

During the process of pulling the new earth wire, the earth wire became tangled in a tree and then sprung free. As it sprung free it flicked up into the line circuit on the other side of the tower which subsequently tripped. No one was injured.

A review was carried out of the procedures used. The following actions have been taken:

- When using helicopters for stringing, instead of using a “balloon” approach, the conductor is now laid out in a more "direct" fashion and directly observed where dense or large tree growth may be an issue.
- Direct observation has been increased at potential trouble sites when pulling up the conductor.
- Site supervision levels have been increased.
- Communication processes have been enhanced.
- Heightened awareness amongst the stringing staff on the dangers of a hook up in a tree or any other obstacle.