



# Uncontrolled Release of Pole (FA081)

*Moderate  
Critical Risk: Falling Object*

Incident	Description	
<b>Event Date:</b> 15/11/2024	<b>Time:</b> 16:00 hrs	<b>Location:</b> Arapuni-Hamilton-A0263
<b>Investigation Status:</b>	<b>On-going</b>	<b>NP Reference:</b> OCC14661 / INV1691 <b>Maximo:</b> 176448

### What happened:

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024, a Northpower transmission lines team replaced a single Pole structure on the Arapuni – Hamilton – A-line. As the old pole was being lowered to the ground, the sling was damaged and became dislodged from the fixed Hiab hook, at this point the base of the pole was on the ground and the top of the pole was nearing a horizontal position, approximately 3-4m off the ground. All personnel on site were in a clear safe zone, outside the identified drop zone when the incident occurred.



### What could have happened?

If the drop zone procedure had not been followed and onsite personnel were working inside the designated drop zone, the **POTENTIAL** consequences could have resulted in significant harm or fatality.

### Actions Required / Messages:

Ensure drop zones are established and managed in accordance with the drop zone procedure whenever there is potential for objects to fall.

Rated chains should be used to remove wooden poles to eliminate the potential of a sling being damaged.

<b>Supporting References:</b>	<i>Single Pole Installation and Replacement (PEW) Procedure Managing a Drop Zone Procedure</i>
<b>For more information</b>	Carey Sutton, HSQE Advisor (Central Contracting) <a href="mailto:Carey.Sutton@northpower.com">Carey.Sutton@northpower.com</a>

