



Safety Advice 12-2008 (NZ)

1. Brief Outline of What Happened:

- i. A live line crew of six men were replacing a Pi Pole Structure in a 110 kV Line.
- ii. They had successfully installed the new structures and completed the transfer of the live conductors.
- iii. The crew were in the process of removing the old 10m steel crossarm from the existing wooden poles.
- iv. The crossarm was being supported overhead by a truck mounted crane.
- v. The old structure was approximately 1metre away from, and directly inline with, the new structure
- vi. There were two Line Mechanics positioned at the top of each pole of the new structure to remove the through-bolts of the old crossarm
- vii. One through-bolt (Pole A) had been removed and a Line Mechanic was attempting to remove the through-bolt from the other pole, Pole B.
- viii. During this activity, the crossarm has slipped out of the gain of Pole A.
- ix. The slack in the slings plus the flex in the overhead truck mounted crane boom were sufficient for the old crossarm at Pole A end to encroach the MAD and a flashover occurred.

The Line Mechanic at Pole B received severe burns to 35% of his body – predominately his back and right shoulder. He is in a stable condition in Hospital.

2. Event Outcome: What the Contractor Has Done as a Result of the Event

- i. All liveline replacement of pole structures by the contractor staff has been placed on hold until a full review of applicable work instructions have been completed.
- ii. Investigations are continuing, and any further available information will be advised in due course.

September 2008