



## *Safety Advice 12-2013 (May)(NZ)*

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The following Safety Advice 12-2013, outlines an incident where a Low Voltage concrete power pole has fallen across an urban street during the night. A preliminary investigation has determined that the pole failed as a direct result of a hole adjacent to the pole, including removal of concrete footpath, which was excavated by Contractors undertaking Ultra-Fast Broadband infrastructure installation in the location. The excavation at the pole was left open overnight with no alternative or additional support of the pole. The surrounding ground which remained supporting the butt of the pole was weakened by overnight rain, and the pole, together with the LV conductors fell across the road close to a bend on a hill. The LV conductors remained live when the pole fell to the ground and were isolated by the repair crews when they arrived on the scene following a report of the incident by a member of the public.

No assistance or guidance from the Network Company was sought and no Close Approach Consent was requested for the location prior to the works being carried out. Thankfully no one was injured and no property damaged as a result of this pole failure. The incident highlights the significant risks to public safety which can be associated with the roll out of the UFB project and raises questions over the effective application of site safety management and safe excavation techniques when excavating around Electricity Network assets.

Further details will be provided upon the conclusion of an independent investigation.



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