


Lessons Learnt – LL043

Leg Injury

This Alert is applicable to (please tick):

Fibre		Distribution		Transmission	X	Wider Business	X
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Date of issue: 03/02/2015

Incident	Description
<i>Date of Event</i>	04/11/2014
<i>Location</i>	Kaikohe to Kaitaia 110kV Transmission Line (Top Energy Project)
<i>Time</i>	18:30 approximately
<i>Injuries/Damage sustained</i>	Crushed leg
<i>Event Description</i>	<p>Staff completing a Pi Pole replacement live line moved the ladder from the outside conductor to the middle conductor. The staff member seated on the suspended horizontal ladder was guiding its placement and had a leg caught in the “pinch point” between the ladder and Pi Pole step bolt when guy ropes passed the pivot point.</p>  <p>Horizontal ladder Leg in pinch point</p>
<i>Initial Actions Taken</i>	The job was stopped for medical assistance and recovery and the site made safe before completing the job to maintain system security.

<p><i>Key Learnings</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was not enough time made available for the planning and preparation of the site and verification that the procedure was suitable for this application. • The team were not experienced enough with this type of operation to be able to recognise the additional risk due to a change in environment that would restrict the angle of pull on the tag lines. • Failure to follow basic training and good working practices i.e. while moving ladder (man sitting), safety observing and ensuring an effective means of communication with work party members • Ordinary guy ropes which can be dragged along the ground should have been used rather than live line ropes as this would have freed up both hands giving greater control of the ladder. • The standard ladder base support was twisting and not a good fit for the steel poles and a steel on steel situation existed. At 90 degrees to the ladder base there is substantial leverage on the ladder base and the bottom of this base is inclined to move. <p><i>Please Note: The Live Line Procedure has been reviewed externally, updated and communicated to the team/s.</i></p>
<p><i>Released by:</i></p>	<p>Janine Wagstaff - 0274595660</p>

