TRANSPOWER

QUALITY ALERT!

24 April 2019
Maximo Ref No. n/a

Vermin in Substations

ISSUE IDENTIFIED:

This is the time of year when rodents are starting to head indoors and in some areas cluster flies are around in large numbers. Rodents inside switchyards, buildings, cabinets or cable ducts pose a significant risk to the grid. Droppings and carcasses are a Health and Safety risk and cluster flies and other insects in large numbers can also be a fire hazard.

DOC are predicting mega mast a (biggest seeding event in NZ in more than 40 years) which will provide food for rodents all through winter and is likely to lead to a spike in population later in spring and summer.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Vermin control has previously been identified as an area for improvement (see Quality Alert from Oct 2017 on poor housekeeping). This is an issue where responsibility is shared between Stations and FM Service Providers. While FM Service Providers monitor traps and bait stations, they are not on site as often as others and don't have access to all areas (e.g. they cannot work in cabinets). Successful vermin management therefore relies on action and input from everyone on site.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO PREVENT REOCCURENCE:

SMP 02.41.007 for Substation Inspections was updated in Aug 2018 to clarify the responsibility of Station Service Providers to check for signs of vermin, identify entry points and remove carcasses and excrement. Updated tasks are: 5.2, 6.3, 14.9, 16.4 and 16.12.

Please remind all field staff to:

- **Monitor activity** - Report increased vermin activity to the local FM Service Provider or the Transpower SDM
- **Identify entry points** - Be extra vigilant in identifying possible entry points and report these back to the Stations or FM Service Provider so they can be mitigated.
- **Clean up** – It is everyone's responsibility to clean up excrement and dead rodents or flies when they are on site! Ensure nothing is left behind on site, take away and dispose of the material in the rubbish.

  Rodent droppings and carcasses can be infectious so avoid stirring up dust, be sure to use rubber gloves and double bag. In case of a severe infestation contact the local FM Service Provider for guidance.

  Dead cluster flies will attract more cluster flies due to a pheromone that sticks around for a long time. Don't vacuum up cluster flies as the vacuum will blow the scent around even more. Sweep them up and ideally wipe surfaces to remove the pheromone.

LEARNINGS FROM THIS

- **A joint effort is required to keep substations vermin free**
- **The TP rodent management strategy is under review**
- **Goodnature self-resetting traps are being trialled on selected sites in the South Island**

Quality Assurance

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