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SAFETY NOTICE- Line Mechanic Injured when LV Pole broke

A serious incident occurred on the Powerco Network when a work party was restoring service to a Low Voltage overhead circuit following a Car-v-Pole accident in Morrinsville.



Following replacement of the damaged pole, the work party determined that the sag in adjacent spans had shifted and would require re-sagging.

The worker visually inspected the concrete pole adjacent to the pole the car had damaged. The inspected pole appeared sound. The worker ascended a ladder, tied the ladder and secured himself via his pole-strap. On unbinding the LV conductors, the pole, ladder and worker fell to the ground.

Preliminary inspection of the pole indicates it is of a non-standard type with no steel reinforcing present at the point of failure. The pole had broken just below ground level.

The worker 'rode' the pole and ladder to the ground, receiving injuries in the process. The worker was wearing a climbing helmet with integrated harness; it is likely that use of this specialist PPE assisted in minimizing the injuries sustained.

The work party immediately implemented their emergency response process, the injured worker, members of the work party and other direct stakeholders are being supported through the recovery process.

An investigation has been initiated. This safety notice may be updated once the investigation is complete.

Joe Schumacher – Senior HSEQ Advisor 0800 Powerco www.powerco.co.nz