

Date Issued: 21 July 2017

Incident Title: ICAM 45
Pole Collapse on 11 June 2017

Event Details:

On 8 June it was brought to PowerNet's attention that a pole in Egerton Road, Winton, was leaning, allowing HV wires to sag close to a hedge running beneath the wires. The site was visited the next day and it was recognised that the poles proximity to a deep ditch, and the partial collapse of the ditch's bank, was allowing the pole to lean. The site was further complicated by being near a culvert and a road intersection. The situation was escalated to the distribution engineering team to identify a solution.

However, on 11 June, before a solution was identified and any remedial work could be carried out, the bank completely collapsed allowing the pole to lean, and the HV wires to contact the hedge, causing a small fire.

The pole was temporarily relocated, as shown in the photograph, until a more permanent solution could be found.

Why ICAM:

This event caused damage to private property and had the potential to cause significant injuries and even greater damage. At PowerNet we care about the safety of the public and we don't want these events occurring.

An ICAM identifies the root cause and ensures the correct measures are put in place to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future.



ICAM 45 Outcome:

Reminder for all staff, particularly **asset inspection teams**, to note similar situations.

Section AP-02 of **FOHA-005 Overhead Lines Inspection Handbook** highlights the issues around pole leaning, excavations near poles, exposed breast blocks, natural soil movement, insufficient pole embedment, and the steepness of the ground at the base of a pole.

Asset inspection teams must assess all sites for these issues and record their assessment on the asset condition report to ensure remedial action can be given the appropriate priority.

Other staff who have concerns about the stability of a pole foundation should report this to their supervisor or directly to the distribution engineering team.

