

# SAFETY ALERT



**BEST IN SERVICE, BEST IN SAFETY**

**Subject:** Larch wood poles

**Date:** Friday 8 September 2017

**Description:**

On Tuesday 05/09/17 a larch pole fell without any external force being applied.

This pole had been inspected 1 year previously and determined to be in good condition. Investigation on this pole post incident has determined that the pole had rotted from the inside out. Therefore while the outside of the pole appeared to be in good condition the inside was completely rotten.

Larch poles have the appearance of a soft wood pole with the expectation that the knots in the pole are randomly distribution rather than the ring distribution that is typical with a soft wood pole.



**Recommendations:**

A new device will be used to determine the condition of all larch poles. This work will be completed by the end of November.

Until this work all poles that are expected to be Larch shall not be climbed, if access is required then the pole shall be accessed via EWP or the pole supported with a crane.

All other poles should be inspected as per SWP0304 prior to climbing.

**For further information contact:** The WEL Networks Health & Safety Team.