

Safety Alert – SA421

Drop Zone Control



be mindful
be present
be safe

Incident	Description		
<i>Date of Event:</i> 23/09/2017	<i>Time:</i> -	<i>Location:</i> Auckland	
<i>Investigation Status:</i>		On-going	
<i>Event Description:</i>	While completing maintenance work on an overhead line, a linesman has dropped a come along tool onto a ground worker near the base of the pole. The tool bounced off a transformer before striking the ground worker on the shoulder. The ground worker was not seriously injured but was placed on light duties for three days.		
<i>Potential Outcome:</i>	The potential outcome could have been serious; and has been on previous occasions under similar circumstances.		
<i>Actions Required / Messages:</i>	Set up a drop zone around the base of the pole. This should include a physical barrier whenever this is practicable, as in the pictures below. No entry into the drop zone is allowed when work aloft is being undertaken.  When it becomes necessary for someone on the ground to enter the drop zone: 1. The ground worker should communicate to the workers aloft and await instruction to enter. 2. The workers aloft will (wherever practicable) cease work and ensure any unsecured items are controlled. If possible they will move down to a safe position where the risk of dropping an item is reduced. 3. The workers aloft should then give their permission to enter the drop zone to the ground worker. 4. The ground worker can now enter. 5. The ground worker will communicate when they have left the drop zone; allowing the workers aloft to continue.		
<i>SM-EI Reference:</i>	Safe Work Practice SWP – 0057. Establishing an Exclusion Zone.		
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