

THEFT OF COPPER WIRE

Date of Issue:	18 September 2024	Safety Alert No:	HS.03-205.GPHS
Incident Type:	Theft of COPPER EARTH WIRE from a remotely situated substation		
Sites:	All sites		
Plant Type:	Electrical Distribution Substation		

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

Theft of copper wire from several pieces of electrical distribution equipment was discovered during a routine inspection of the Horizon Networks Galatea Substation (pictured). This seriously compromised public safety and the safety measures at the Substation and had the potential to cause operational problems. Entry was gained via a hole cut in the boundary fencing.



WARNING TO HEG WORKERS

This theft involved the cutting away of copper wire from live electrical distribution equipment putting those who perpetrated this theft at risk of electrocution. It also puts the community in danger due to exposed wires and the potential of loss of power supply.

This risk is massive, and the return is minimal.

Right across Aotearoa, damage to power lines is being caused by thieves trying to get their hands on copper. Copper theft from power lines is not only a nuisance, but thieves are putting themselves at risk of electrocution and endangering the safety of members of the public and those who work across the country's electricity networks.

Police are urging everyone to ring 111 immediately if they see anyone acting suspiciously around power poles and lines. If you have information about a past incident, please call 105.

This Safety Alert must be posted on all workplaces notice boards and used by Supervisors as a subject for discussion at Toolbox Meetings.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WORKPLACES

ACT SAFE, WORK SAFE, LIVE