



Safety Advice 7-2012 (NZ) (Feb) *(Transmission)*

The following Incident Alert courtesy of Transfield Services outlines a pulling rope failure under tension which reportedly failed at approximately 1/5 of its safe working load. Any further advice on this incident will be made available as it comes to hand.

The full safety advice follows below

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Incident Alert

**Incident Title:**

PULLING ROPE FAILURE
(BPE HAY A Replacing Conductor Span 163 164)

Date of Incident:

Monday 3 February 2014

Incident Description and Details:

During conductor replacement works on the BPE-HAY-A line the rope (a 12 ply polyester rope 10.7 tonne safe working load) which was being used for the tension stringing operation (to replace corroded conductor between two towers) failed under load.

Full tension on the conductor had been released at the tensioner end and the safety was on the conductor at the puller end. As the tension was taken up on the puller to release the safety, the pulling rope broke and released back onto the safety stop/grip.

The conductor was just above the ground at this time and well below full tension (estimated load at the time the rope failed was 1.5 -2 tonne). No one was injured and no damage to equipment/property occurred. The outer layer of rope on the drum (approximately 60m) was discarded off the drum as per standard practice and the rope which was to be utilized as part of the pulling operation undertook a full visual inspection prior to use.

Immediate Actions undertaken:

- All rope similar pulling rope of the same age and construction has been quarantined at the Upper Hutt Depot pending an inspection.
- A new rope was purchased for the pulling operation.
- The Crew was re-briefed before work restarted.
- All staff will be reminded (at the toolbox on 10/02/2014) of the importance of visual rope inspections prior to use.

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