

safety alert

Magpie Bird Attack

Electrix Event Number
E15137



What Happened

Whilst setting up a worksite, a magpie swooped down and attacked an employee on the side of his forehead.

Findings

- 9-12% of magpies will aggressively swoop humans mostly in nesting season according to Dr Darryl Jones, ecologist at Griffith University in Queensland.
- Nearly all attacks take place between August and November when chicks are in the nest.

Immediate Actions

- Work was stopped.
- Crewman's injury was assessed and he was taken to the local medical centre for a tetanus injection as a precaution.
- Returned to the work site, and commenced work again.

Legal Requirements

- Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) display aggressive territorial behaviour that makes them pests. For example: All landowners in the Waikato region are required to destroy this pest if a valid complaint is made.
- If the Waikato Regional Council receives a valid complaint about magpies, the occupier of the land on which the magpie nest occurs will need to destroy the bird, nest or both as directed.
- Where the nest occurs on land owned by the Department of Conservation, or the district/city council, contact the relevant organisation directly.
- Contact your local Regional Council to determine the requirements of magpie pest control in your area.

For further details please contact TLS, TNOR QSE Assessor Wayne Pirini. Mobile #: 021 284 0531

Safety Alerts are advisory only. They contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported and the key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event