

Safety Alert

Near Miss –Ladder drop from tower structure

Date of issue: 21.03.14

Issued by: Janine Wagstaff

Incident	Description
<i>Date of Event</i>	3 rd March 2014
<i>Location</i>	Structure 0057 Wairekei
<i>Time</i>	Approximately 11.30
<i>Injuries/Damage sustained</i>	No injury – damage to ladder
<i>Event Description</i>	Overview: On the 3rd March a Northpower Linesman dropped a ladder while attempting to manually transfer the ladder from the top crossarm to the middle crossarm of a tower. The ladder dropped on the ground within the drop zone. There was no injury to any employee and the ladder sustained damage and was removed from service for assessment and repair. Just prior to the incident: All the rigging gear was being lowered from the top arm to the middle arm to reposition the equipment, and while still supported by the hand-line the rigging gear was attached to the working point of the middle arm. It was then realised that they could not release the hand line from the rigging equipment without the ladder because it was positioned well below the arm hence the decision to manually lower the ladder.  
<i>Initial Actions Taken</i>	The ladder was inspected and the damage considered minor and the work continued.
<i>Message</i>	Lessons to be taken from this: First and foremost any damage to a ladder must be removed from service for assessment and repair by someone qualified to determine the extent of the damage. Manual handling alone is not an acceptable practice and the procedure must be updated to reflect this. Secure tools and equipment to avoid dangerous drops from heights