

Safety Alert 190409-1B

3 July 2019

Fatal electric shock during live low voltage pole changeover

A network operator lineworker received a fatal electric shock on 2 April 2019 while working from an insulated elevating work platform to relocate live open wire low voltage conductors onto a new pole.

Information provided at the scene indicates that:

- ▼ Live low voltage conductors were being transferred from an old pole to an adjacent new pole
- ▼ Three electricity network operator workers were on site when the accident occurred
 - ▼ One worker was working in an elevating work platform sleeving through live low voltage conductors that had been attached to a cross arm on the old pole
 - ▼ A second worker was working on the adjacent new pole in a second elevating work platform. While installing a new cross arm below a temporary cross arm on the new pole, this worker came into contact with exposed live low voltage conductors.
 - ▼ The third worker was on the ground and was the safety observer for both workers who were aloft.

A representative of the network operator informed IPART after the accident that the network operator has paused all live work by its staff and contractors and Accredited Service Providers, except urgent works where it is not feasible to isolate supply. The pause does not include testing or operating works, or circumstances where there is an immediate threat to life and limb. IPART is aware that the network operator recently amended its live work pause to permit live work by Level 2 Accredited Service Providers when additional mandatory controls are implemented.

This safety alert has been published by the delegate of the Tribunal under section 63V of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* (NSW).

Images taken at site by an IPART inspector after the accident







