

Notification of fatal incident involving a low power line

12 November 2024

Details of incident

On 18 September 2024, a member of the public was riding a motorbike on private property when he is suspected to have struck a live 11kV conductor and sustained fatal injuries. A tie wire, which tied the 11kV conductor onto the pin insulator on a pole mounted crossarm, had failed. This allowed the conductor to fall from the pole, where it remained suspended close to the ground. Please refer to the photos on page 2 for further information.

The circumstances surrounding this incident are under investigation. If the investigation results in findings that have broader industry application, we will communicate again.

Network operators must ensure suitable risk controls are in place

Network operators must take all reasonable steps to ensure that their networks are safe. They are also required to have, and implement, a safety management system to assist them to support the safety of members of the public. IPART monitors and enforces compliance with these obligations. IPART expects network operators to assess the risks to the public of their networks and identify controls to mitigate those risks.

Controls may include, but are not limited to:

- clearly documented processes to adequately inspect assets in public areas, and to identify conditions that may lead to asset failure or pose a safety risk
- training and competency assessment of asset inspectors
- processes to ensure that any defects are identified, prioritised and rectified to ensure that safety risks from the network are as low as reasonably practicable.

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Image taken at site by an inspector after the accident.



Above – Other conductor on the pole, shown tied onto a pin insulator on a pole mounted crossarm.

Left – Conductor involved, shown hanging off the pole near ground level and with the broken tie wire still on attached.