

# H&S Alert

<b>DESCRIPTION:</b>	Transporting High Loads under power lines	
<b>WHAT HAPPENED:</b>	<p>A high load (which encroached the 4m safety zone), consisting of rig equipment was transported off the highway. The highest point of load either touched or arched power lines on a site in Kawerau. The incident caused a power outage in the area and lines were de-energised. There was no harm to any persons, no environmental damage, and no damage to private or public property.</p>	
<b>WHEN:</b>	Sunday 14 February 2010 at approximately 12.30pm	
<b>WHERE:</b>	Kawerau Steam Fields off State Highway 34, Kawerau	
<b>FINDINGS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Significant High Risk Hazard was not adequately identified and controlled.</li> <li>• Asset owner was not notified prior to any loads being transported.</li> <li>• There was a lack of communication between contractors prior to works being undertaken</li> <li>• Documentation was inadequate for works involved</li> <li>• Sufficient time was not allowed to effectively plan the works</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION (S) TAKEN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where practicable, a site visit should be undertaken to establish proximity hazards which include power lines</li> <li>• All routes must be planned to take into account all hazards including power lines and low bridges etc</li> <li>• Where power lines are encountered the Asset Owner must be notified and informed of the height of the load</li> <li>• The asset owner will then indicate any encroachment of the power lines and specify where a safety encroacher must be used</li> <li>• Safety observers must be appointed by the asset owner, when transporting plant within minimum approach distances</li> <li>• Toolbox meetings will be held with all staff to effectively communicate all hazards and controls involved with works</li> <li>• An electronic measuring device will be used to accurately determine the height of the load prior to transit</li> <li>• Any new hazards encountered must now be reported and works stopped immediately where there are any concerns</li> <li>• Daily safety text alerts are now sent to all staff</li> </ul>	
<b>LEARNINGS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow more time for planning and communication</li> <li>• Adhere to best practice guidelines when transporting loads under power lines</li> <li>• Take ownership and "DONT ASSUME ANYTHING"</li> </ul>	
<b>REFERENCES:</b>	<p>DOL Construction Bulletin - Keep Clear of Overhead Electric Lines  <a href="http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdfs/const020.pdf">http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdfs/const020.pdf</a>  HSE Guidance Document - Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Power lines  <a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/g6.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/g6.htm</a>  EAA Document - Guide for the Transport of High Loads Through Electricity Network Areas NZ  <a href="http://www.eea.co.nz/images/Publications/Guide%20for%20Transport%20of%20High%20Loads%20Final%20Sept%202008.pdf">http://www.eea.co.nz/images/Publications/Guide%20for%20Transport%20of%20High%20Loads%20Final%20Sept%202008.pdf</a></p>	