

# Safety notice

Notice to Construction, Scaffolding & Roofing Industries

| Dec 2023

## Safety Near Power Lines - Scaffolding & Structures close to Electricity Assets

In Taranaki recently there was scaffolding erected dangerously close to Powerco's overhead lines (OH).



Several causal factors led to this occurrence:

- While quoting the job, the OH lines were not identified or marked out on the re-roofing plans,
- Due to the OH lines not being noted on the plans, or seen in any photos taken from site, no Close Approach Consent (CAC) was sought for the re-roof, so Powerco was unaware of the job
- A request for a service line safety cover was received and undertaken by a Powerco Approved Contractor (PAC) on 30/10/23 but no other work parties were on site and it was not clear to the PAC where the scaffolding was going to go,
- The scaffolders arrived on 6/11/23 and believed the lines were isolated or 'low risk'

**REMINDER:** When carrying out any type of work near power lines, **treat the lines as 'live' at all times.**

It's important to keep yourself and any equipment you're using – such as ladders, tools and scissor lifts – at least 4 metres away from the overhead lines to help stay safe. This is because electricity can arc (jump through the air) to your equipment and to you.

All work within 4m of lines needs to be completed under a CAC and may require a Stand Over – from a Powerco Approved Contractor OR isolation of the lines.

To apply for a CAC or Stand Over, free of charge, please visit the Powerco website:

<https://www.powerco.co.nz/safety/contractor-safety/close-approach-consent>

0800 769 372 [powerco.co.nz](https://www.powerco.co.nz)

