POWERCO

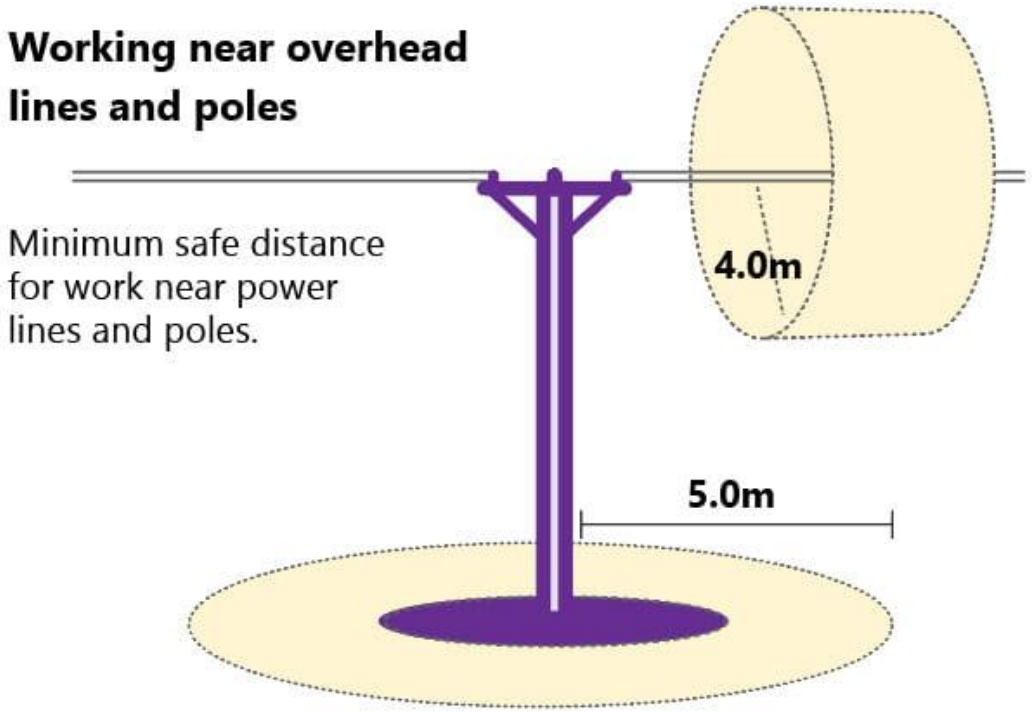
Working safely around Electrical Infrastructure

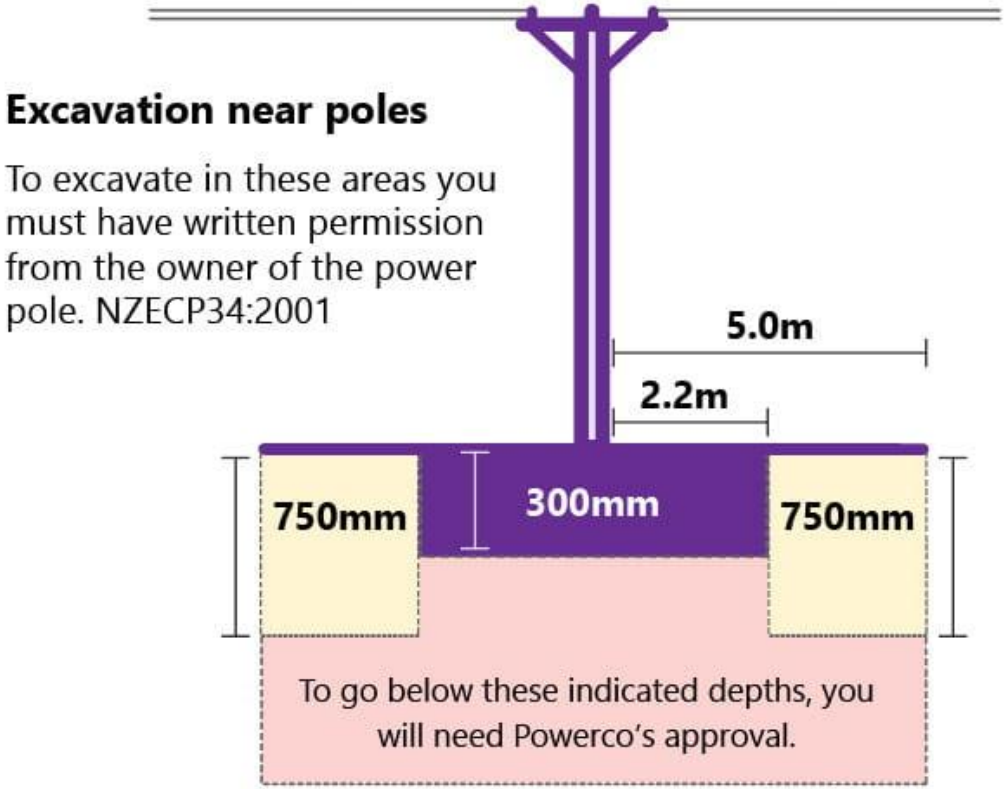
Safety by Design. Human Factors.
Shared Responsibility

BeST
BE SAFE TARANAKI

Why this matters

The reality of electrical risk



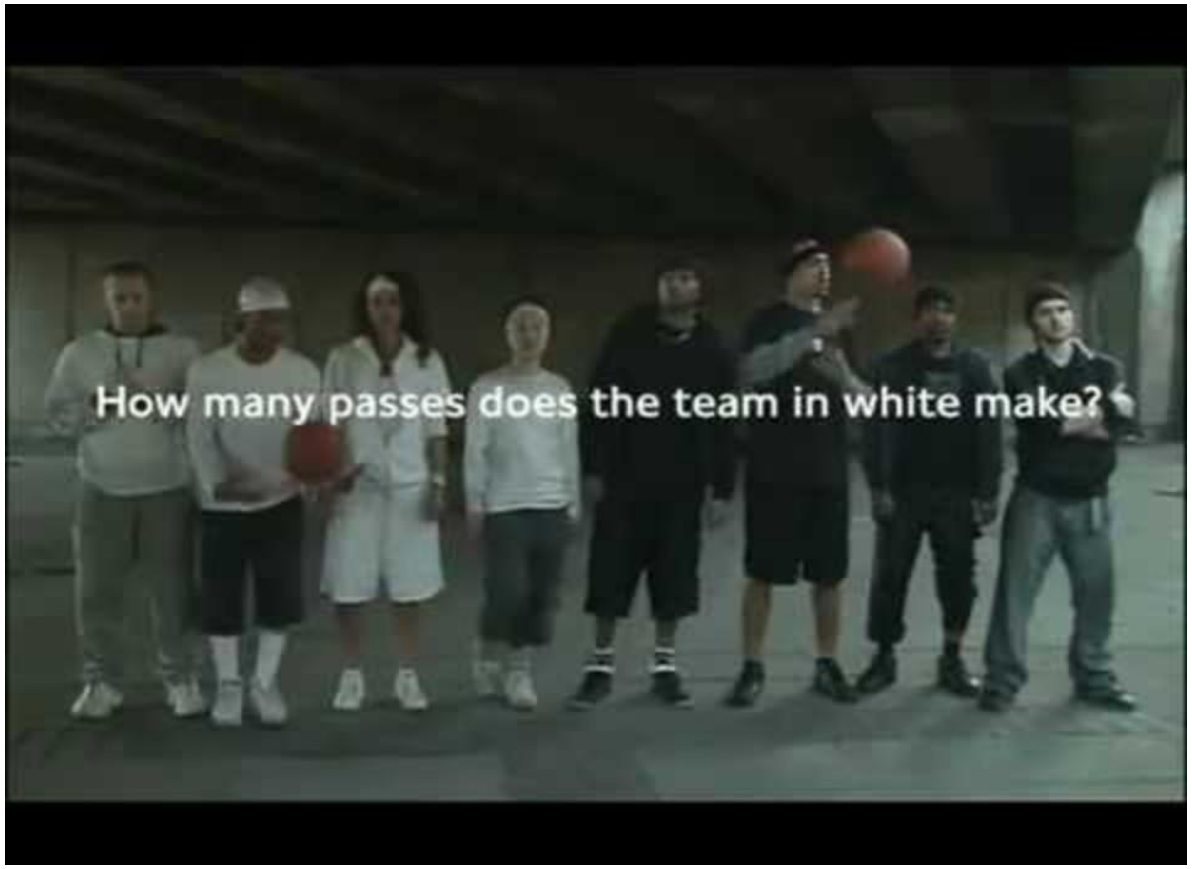


What is NZECP 34?

Safety by Design.
Broader than you think

Human Factors. Why incidents really happen

Basketball Awareness Test



Human Factors in Electrical Work

- **Jahden Nelson Scaffolding Incident (April 2022/Nov 2023):** Auckland scaffolder Jahden Nelson, 28, lost both arms after a steel pole he was holding contacted a 11kV overhead power line. The incident was deemed preventable, with WorkSafe noting a failure in communicating safety protocols to the dismantling crew. Employer CPA 2022 Ltd was sentenced for health and safety failures.
- **Sean Clear Farming Fatality (Feb 2023/Dec 2024):** Irish farm worker Sean Clear, 24, was electrocuted in the North Island when a mower he was operating contacted high-voltage power lines. Coogan Contracting was fined $25,000 and ordered to pay $100,000 in reparations after it was found that risks were not properly identified or communicated to workers.
- **Wesley Talakai Delivery Death (Aug 2023/Nov 2025):** 38-year-old Wesley Talakai was killed while delivering timber to an Auckland site when his truck-mounted crane touched live overhead lines. NZ Solid Limited was fined $330,000 after a WorkSafe investigation revealed an inadequate lift plan and reliance on verbal instructions.
- **Jayden Disher Farm Incident (Aug 2019/Feb 2025):** 15-year-old farm worker Jayden Disher was electrocuted while setting up an electric fence that touched low-hanging lines. The coroner ruled it an accident, but advised WorkSafe to enhance safety initiatives around on-farm power lines.
- **Auckland Rail Incident (Sept 2024):** Two KiwiRail track workers were hospitalised after receiving an electric shock in a boom basket while performing maintenance at

Worker's electric shock was preventable | WorkSafe

13 Nov 2023 — 13 November 2023. An electric shock which cost an Auckland scaffolder both...

www.worksafe.govt.nz

Warning after Irishman electrocuted in 'freak accident' on NZ ...

18 Dec 2024 — * An Irish farm worker, Sean Clear, died after being electrocuted on a Nort...

NZ Herald · NZ Herald

Electrocuted worker warned about power lines moments ...

27 Feb 2025 — Electrocuted worker warned about power lines moments before death *...

RNZ

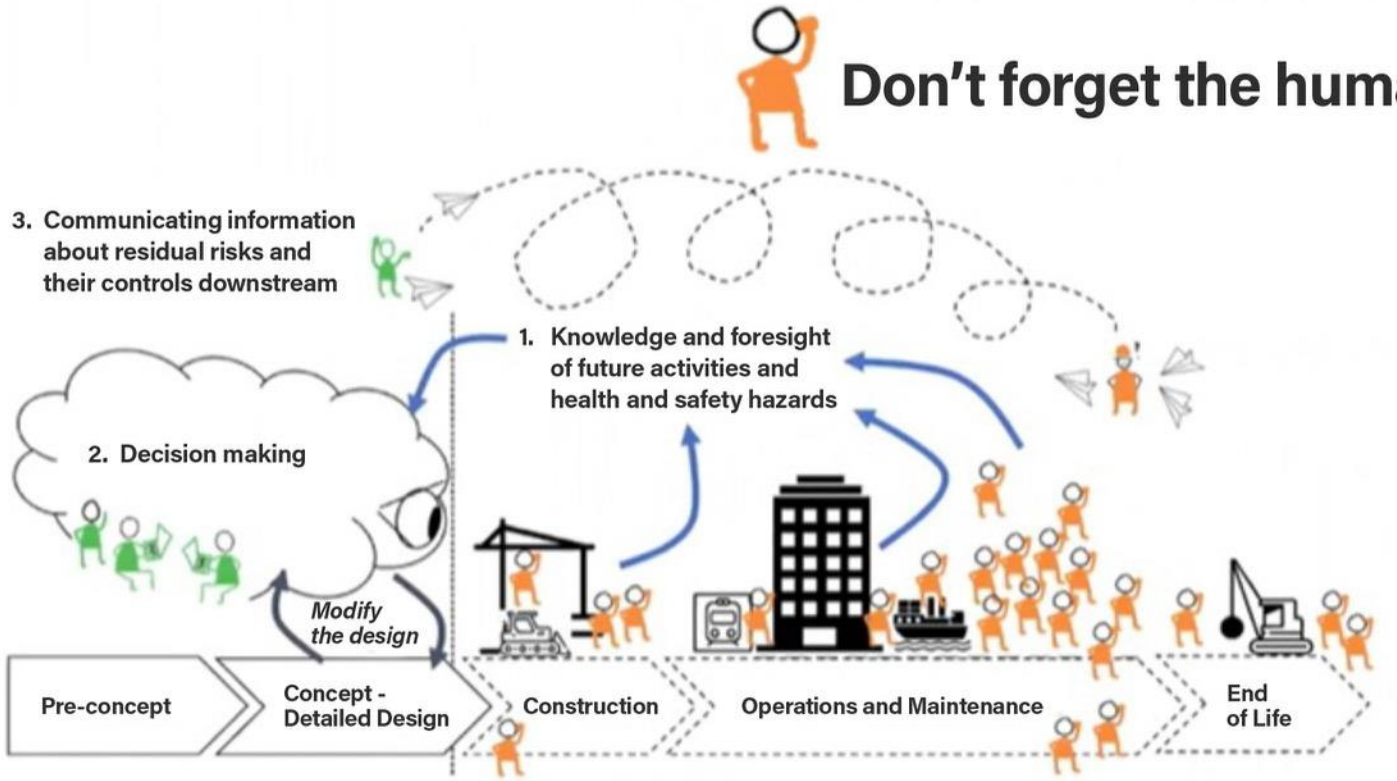
Show all

Designing for Human Reliability

Health and safety is about protecting downstream stakeholders from harm

Downstream work and use is diverse

- Manufacture
- Transport
- Construct
- Commission
- Operate
- Occupy
- Inspect
- Maintain
- Repair
- Refurbish
- Modify
- Use
- Decommission
- Demolish
- Dismantle
- Dispose
- Etc.



Person illustration by Margaret Hagan. Diagram created by modifying a figure from McMullan (2019)

CHASNZ
Construction Health & Safety NZ

Minor Works & Traffic Works

What we expect across Taranaki industry

Safety is Designed.

Safety is Shared.

Safety is Deliberate.

BE ALIGNED TARANAKI

BeST
BE SAFE TARANAKI

POWERCO