

Tripod Type Pole Stands (Dead Man's Stands)

This alert has been generated to ensure that all workers in Victoria are aware of the risks associated with non compliant and non maintained dead man stands. Worksafe recently issued an improvement notice as a result of a safety walk conducted at a Downer Utilities site in Thomastown with the Electrical Trades Union and Management.

It was observed that the stands were being used to support power poles and that there was no safe system of work in place to ensure that they are inspected to the extent necessary to ensure that the risks associated with the use of the tripod type stands are monitored.

It was also observed multiple items of the tripod type pole stands in use that were damaged and there was no means of ensuring the stands not used. Damage included bent base plates, rusted / corroded components, no designed or supplier's information available regarding the use and maintenance of some of these stands.

Checklists for inspections to detect any equipment faults and assess the condition of these stands should be developed along with a safe system of work that includes having regular inspections of the dead man stands in line with the manufacturer's documentation.

If any of the above cannot be verified the work **should cease**. Contact your designated Health & Safety Representative, your local organiser or alternatively your Union OH&S Officer.

