

This is the list of the 7 electricity and the 15 electrical fire notifiable accidents reported to Energy Safety for which the investigation was completed between April and June 2009



The electricity notifiable accidents

Event ID:	081230-01
Event summary	A man has been found dead at the scene of the accident, underneath his service line power cables.
Event date	30/12/2008
Site	Domestic
Environment	Outside (Above Ground)
Voltage	230
Equipment	
Event	Other/Unknown (Electrical)
Casualty	Fatality
Injury	Shock
Property damage level	No property damage
Outcome of investigation	A homeowner was using a portable electrical sander. He was working on the barge board close to the overhead mains in the vicinity of the entry point of the mains to the house. It is likely that he may have contacted the mains and received a fatal electric shock but this has not been confirmed.
Event ID:	090213-01
Event summary	The pins on a night light pushed back into the internal printed circuit board when it was being plugged into a socket outlet. Audit of compliance documentation and basis of safety scheduled.
Event date	12/02/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Appliances
Event	Other/Unknown (Electrical)
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	No property damage
Outcome of investigation	Other lights were looked at but no issues were found, further audits will be carried out on this type of light.
Event ID:	090216-01
Event summary	A transmission cable came down on a house causing damage to the roof and electrical installation.
Event date	13/02/2009
Site	Works or Distribution
Environment	Outside (Above Ground)
Voltage	220000
Equipment	Overhead lines
Event	Other/Unknown (Electrical)
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the direct vicinity of the equipment
Outcome of investigation	Power line joint failed as a result of failure to correctly assemble joint prior to crimping. The company has tested all joints in the circuit and has not found any other suspect joints.

Event ID:	090420-01
Event summary	A home owner received an electric shock from a cordless kettle when making tea.
Event date	08/04/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Liquid heating; Kettles; Urns
Event	Electrical Shock
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	No property damage
Outcome of investigation	The electric kettle had all the approval documents for safety, the kettle was not available for inspection so the cause of the shock could not be determined. The company who sold the kettle did not follow the normal procedure when dealing with a safety issue and have re trained the person responsible.
Event ID:	090428-04
Event summary	While the victim was attempting to connect a foreign type cell phone charger with incompatible plug pins that required the use of an illegal travel adaptor into a New Zealand socket-outlet, the travel adaptor came apart exposing live parts that resulting in the victim receiving an electric shock.
Event date	28/04/2009
Site	Commercial
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Appliances
Event	Electrical Shock
Casualty	Injury
Injury	Shock
Property damage level	No property damage
Outcome of investigation	Following sale of a new mobile phone from an internet based supplier, an electric shock was received by a clerical worker, who had direct contact with live parts of a foreign travel adaptor, supplied with the new mobile phone and charger. The travel adaptor fell apart whilst being connected to a socket-outlet under a desk. The phone charger was not intended for use in NZ and was non-compliant with the Electricity Regulations; likewise the Travel adaptor supplied was non-compliant with the Electricity Regulations, including those in respect to unsafe electrical fittings and appliances. Referred to Energy Safety Compliance officer, with a recommendation for prosecution.
Event ID:	090518-07
Event summary	Energy Safety was notified by a network contractor with regards to a home owner receiving a minor electric shock from their external metallic meter board.
Event date	16/05/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	400
Equipment	Overhead lines
Event	Electrical Shock
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	No property damage
Outcome of investigation	The network contractor sent a faultman to the premise after receiving notice of a fault where the home owner had received an electric shock, after investigating the their power problems, on an external metallic meter board. The faultman found a broken neutral connection on the network side of the line and made repairs.

Event ID:	090527-01
Event summary	A power line came down during a storm and touched a wire fence and a member of the public touched the fence and received an electric shock.
Event date	16/05/2009
Site	Commercial
Environment	Outside (Above Ground)
Voltage	400
Equipment	Overhead lines
Event	Electrical Shock
Casualty	Injury
Injury	Shock
Property damage level	No property damage
Outcome of investigation	The line fell down during a storm and contacted a wire fence. The power company supplied details of maintenance for the lines which complied with regulations.

Electrical fire notifiable accidents

Event ID:	090401-01
Event summary	A bathroom fan heater caught fire.
Event date	17/03/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Room Heaters; Fan heaters; Radiant Heaters; Oil Fin
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the room containing the equipment
Outcome of investigation	On investigation it was found that the fire was caused by a fan heater. Full details of the heater were not available and no further action was taken. The damage was confined to the heater area.

Event ID:	090329-02
Event summary	Electrical arcing in a garage metal cladding, the garage was detached from house and showed signs of arcing on metal cladding. Network company will send faultman to site to look at network connections.
Event date	28/03/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Control / Safety Device
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the room containing the equipment
Outcome of investigation	Several fires in garages located between two houses were caused by a broken neutral in a mains entry box. It appears that the metal cladding on the houses was acting as the return path for the installation which caused building paper in the roof to catch fire. The houses involved were inspected and no other faults found with the installations.

Event ID:	090402-02
Event summary	Fire in spray booth notified by NZFS, the spray booth was switched off at the time of the fire.
Event date	01/04/2009
Site	Industrial
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Equipment under 60204 classification
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the direct vicinity of the equipment
Outcome of investigation	Case investigated by DoL. Not believed to be electrically related.

Event ID:	090404-01
Event summary	A fire in a bedroom resulted in the death of an elderly person.
Event date	4/04/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Appliances
Event	Fire
Casualty	Fatality
Injury	Burn, Asphyxiation
Property damage level	Extended to the site
Outcome of investigation	On investigation it was found that they were three multi-boxes daisy-chained together. The multi-boxes were supplying a dehumidifier and other small devices. The fire had started in first multi-box connected to the outlet on the wall.

Event ID:	090415-01
Event summary	A fire occurred in the vicinity of a bedside cabinet placed over electrical cabling.
Event date	14/04/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Appliances
Event	Other/Unknown (Electrical)
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the direct vicinity of the equipment
Outcome of investigation	The bedside cabinet was placed over the supply cord for a baby monitor unit. The supply cord developed a short which resulted in fire confined to the cabinet area.

Event ID:	090425-01
Event summary	Fire Service attended a call for electrical equipment arcing in a rental property. The Fire Service was concerned with the electrical installation and notified Energy Safety.
Event date	25/04/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Fixed general purpose
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	No property damage

Outcome of investigation The landlord's maintenance electrician was called for remedial work, which was carried out on the immediate dangers within the electrical installation. A report outlining other concerns with the electrical installation was then sent to Energy Safety. The property owner was contacted by Energy Safety with details of the unsafe electrical installation and remedial work was completed by their electrician.

Event ID: 090504-02
Event summary A house truck suffered minor damage to the underside when a cable termination faulted during a storm.
Event date 04/05/2009
Site Domestic
Environment Caravan
Voltage 230
Equipment TPS Cable
Event Fire
Casualty No casualty
Injury No injury
Property damage level Restricted to the direct vicinity of the equipment
Outcome of investigation The house truck had been parked up for a number of years and it appears that water may have entered a lead termination causing a small fire under the truck which caused minor damage.

Event ID: 090609-01
Event summary Multi box caused fire in house.
Event date 8/05/2009
Site Domestic
Environment Building
Voltage 230
Equipment 61558 General
Event Other/Unknown (Electrical)
Casualty No casualty
Injury No injury
Property damage level Restricted to the room containing the equipment
Outcome of investigation Multi box was covered with clothing and had power supplies plugged in at the time, possibly causing power supplies to set fire to clothing.

Event ID: 090528-04
Event summary Fire in the main switchboard in an industrial location involving the 400A fuse isolator.
Event date 28/05/2009
Site Industrial
Environment Building
Voltage 400
Equipment Circuit breaker
Event Fire
Casualty No casualty
Injury No injury
Property damage level Restricted to the room containing the equipment
Outcome of investigation Fire in the main switchboard in a industrial location involving the 400A fuse isolator. Damage to switchboard contained in the switchroom.

Event ID:	090529-01
Event summary	The Fire Service attended a switch board fire within a domestic dwelling. Energy Safety was notified through concerns raised by the power board faultman's comments, who was also in attendance, as to the common occurrence of this type of incident.
Event date	29/05/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Switch/distribution board
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the direct vicinity of the equipment
Outcome of investigation	It appears the probable cause of this incident was a loose connection onto the main switch circuit breaker. A new switch board had to be installed for the remedial work. The event has been noted for trend analysis.

Event ID:	090606-01
Event summary	Fire Service reported house fire where incandescent downlight fitting believed to be source of fire.
Event date	06/06/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Fixed general purpose
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the room containing the equipment
Outcome of investigation	The cause of the fire could not be determined, the fitting and wiring was examined by an electrical inspector who could not find any cause due to the extent of the damage to the light fitting. The circuit was protected by an RCD which tripped during the fire.

Event ID:	090609-02
Event summary	Total loss house fire, no evidence left at scene.
Event date	08/06/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Control / Safety Device
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Extended to the site
Outcome of investigation	Total loss house fire, no evidence left at scene, the occupants stated that there was a smell of plastic when they left the property. Fire service notified Energy Safety just for information.

Event ID:	090609-03
Event summary	Major loss house fire started in small office.
Event date	88/06/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Appliances
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Extended to the site
Outcome of investigation	Due to the extent of the damage it was not possible to determine the cause of the fire, however at the time the fire started a computer and fan heater were plugged into an EPOD.

Event ID:	090612-01
Event summary	The occupants in the house saw the dehumidifier on fire.
Event date	12/06/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Heat pumps; air-conditioners; dehumidifiers
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the room containing the equipment
Outcome of investigation	The occupants in the house saw the dehumidifier on fire. The dehumidifier was completely destroyed and the make and model could not be identified. The dehumidifier was approximately 7 years old. Fire contained in the room with the dehumidifier smoke damage to other parts of the building.

Event ID:	090617-01
Event summary	Bathroom fan heater caught fire melted and dropped down onto floor damaging the lino floor.
Event date	16/06/2009
Site	Domestic
Environment	Building
Voltage	230
Equipment	Appliances
Event	Fire
Casualty	No casualty
Injury	No injury
Property damage level	Restricted to the direct vicinity of the equipment
Outcome of investigation	An investigation could not determine the cause of the fault in the fan heater.