



SAFETY Net

A Publication from the Health & Safety Committee of the
South East Central Branch CWU

Dropwire Heights!

As a consequence of the result of recent disciplinary case it should be underlined that Openreach customer service management are classing multi occupancy/multi access hard standing as the carriageway. The Branch has made defensive representation on the case in question but failed to change the result of the discipline. With this in mind the Safety committee feels it has a responsibility to make you all aware of this fact. The discipline case involved the erection of a dropwire below 5.5m across a private hard stand area with multiple occupancy and multi vehicular access. Therefore the Branch recommends that if you are faced with a similar situation and you are unsure what category the area may fall into please, please **CONTACT YOUR MANAGER** for advice.

There have also been a number of instances recently where engineers have been climbing poles with low wires on them, the rules are quite clear. When you get to a job and find you have to climb the pole you **must measure all wires that are crossing the road**. Management have made it clear that this covers all roads and hard standing areas.

If you climb a pole with low wires and the job is audited you will get a 10 point failure for **EVERY** low wire on that pole. This means if there were five low wires you would get a 50 point CD (Critical Defect).

It is likely that your manager would view this as a straight discipline case and as the branch already has three engineers being disciplined for gross misconduct for this type of CD then it would be reasonable to assume that that is the way he/she would go.

So, to finish, please remember, **BEFORE you climb any pole measure the height of ALL wires that are crossing the road or hard standing areas if any are below 5.2m then DO NOT CLIMB THE POLE**. And if you are in any doubt what may or may not constitute as a “carriage way” please **CONTACT YOUR MANAGER** for advice.

