Wire strike

If you have a health and safety plan for your farm that identifies, manages and communicates risks like wire strike, then injuries and fatalities can be prevented.

**KEY POINTS**

**Farmers**
- Remove aerial wires where possible.
- Mark all wires that can’t be removed on a hazard map for the pilot.

**Pilots**
- Wires are thin and often nearly impossible to see until it’s too late.
- Your workload, vision limitations, and a small lapse in concentration can lead to a fatal mistake.
- Ask farmers if there are any wires or poles above fence level or across gullies.

Overhead wires, aerials or cables are a significant threat to any aircraft flying at low level (under 500 ft). Helicopters are especially susceptible because of the work they do.

**TYPES OF WIRE HAZARDS**
- Suspended overhead electric fence feeder wires that span across open spaces and valleys-from poles on the tops of ridge lines, or across the bottom of valleys.
- Telephone lines, power lines or television/radio aerials and wires.
- High tension power lines and wires.

**HOW TO PREVENT WIRE STRIKE**

- Eliminate the overhead electric fence feeder wires risk by lowering them to fence level.
- Eliminate unused telephone lines, power lines or television/radio aerials and wires.
- Ensure you have a meeting with the pilot, either in person or by phone, prior to any work on the farm.
- Work with the pilot to identify hazards and risks.
- Note wires and other hazards on property maps.
- Identify the location of wires and other hazards by taking a reconnaissance flight with the pilot.

For further information about wire strikes visit: [www.caa.govt.nz/wires/](http://www.caa.govt.nz/wires/)

**PUBLISHED JULY 2016**

CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Mana Reverangi Tamatawha o Aotearoa

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