

# Media Release

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## Look up and live by being wire wise

Essential Energy is reminding machinery operators to be vigilant around the electricity network following a series of incidents involving excavation and harvest equipment.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said more than 20 incidents of equipment contacting powerlines were reported in October across the Essential Energy footprint.

“We work closely with our at-risk industries, including agri-business and construction, however, there’s still a small minority of individuals that don’t seem to recognise the risks – jeopardising their safety and the safety of others,” David said.

Late last month, two men in Queensland sustained serious burns after a grain auger struck overhead powerlines.

“Maintaining safe distances from powerlines is absolutely critical for those operating bulldozers, excavators, augers, cranes and other high load machinery,” David said. “Hazard identification, risk assessments and control measures must be considered prior to work commencing.

“Assigning a safety observer to a worksite when moving equipment near overhead powerlines provides a vital second set of eyes on the wires, and can protect against potential contact with electricity.”

If equipment does contact the electricity network, stay at least eight metres away, treat all powerlines as ‘live’ and call Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80**. If the situation is life-threatening, call Triple-0 (000).

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Essential Energy is the operator of one of Australia’s largest electricity networks spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales’ land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.