

Media Release



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Tip truck tangles prompt safety warning

Essential Energy is reminding truck drivers and machinery operators to take extra care around the electricity network following a spike in tipper trucks contacting powerlines across the State.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said Essential Energy crews had responded to five incidents of tipper trucks snagging powerlines and causing network damage in recent weeks.

“Incidents such as these pose a serious safety risk to operators and bystanders, and can also cause power outages that inconvenience local communities,” David said.

“Tipper trucks and machinery higher than 4.6 metres are at greater risk of contacting overhead powerlines and should be kept well clear of the electricity network.

“Taking some simple steps to assess the potential electrical hazards at a worksite before starting the job can help to avoid an incident.”

Essential Energy advises operators to monitor weather conditions throughout the day as powerlines can sag in extreme heat, sway in windy conditions and be difficult to see at dawn and dusk.

“We also recommend assigning a competent safety observer to each worksite to monitor work teams and guide machinery movements near overhead powerlines to ensure minimum clearances are maintained,” David said.

If machinery does accidentally contact powerlines or poles, remain inside the vehicle’s cabin, and report the incident immediately to Essential Energy on **13 20 80** to isolate the power.

For further information about working safely near overhead powerlines, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call Essential Energy on **13 23 91**.

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Essential Energy is the operator of Australia’s largest electricity network 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.