

Media Release



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Dialling before you dig could be life-saving

Essential Energy is urging tradespeople undertaking excavation work to contact the Dial Before You Dig national referral service to confirm the location of underground electrical assets before turning a sod.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said a simple phone call could save a life.

“Essential Energy has a growing network of underground electrical services and reminds construction workers that it is a statutory requirement to contact the free Dial Before You Dig service before work begins,” David said.

“Confirming the location of underground networks – including electricity, gas, telecommunications and water – before digging, could save your life.

“The Dial Before You Dig maps could also help prevent damage to underground networks and disruption to local communities through associated power outages.”

Under the Electricity Supply Act, it is a requirement to consult with the Dial Before You Dig service before excavation work begins.

“There are heavy financial penalties for negligent behaviour with offenders potentially liable for damage to Essential Energy’s network or injuries sustained on the worksite,” David said.

“We urge workers to be vigilant about their personal safety because cable strike incidents have the potential to cause serious injury, or even death.”

Dial Before You Dig is Australia’s free national referral service for information on underground cables and pipes and can be contacted by calling 1100 or online at: www.1100.com.au.

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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.