

# Media Release



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## Keep your distance from powerlines

As harvesting continues across the grain belt of NSW, Essential Energy is reminding machinery operators and agricultural workers to be aware of the overhead electricity network when using headers and harvesters.

General Manager, Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said Essential Energy had received several reports of harvest machinery contacting powerlines and poles this season, causing grass fires and power outages in recent weeks.

“This is a busy time of year for harvesting activities but safety has to come first when machinery is being operated near overhead powerlines,” David said.

Essential Energy recommends workers complete an electrical risk assessment prior to harvesting to ensure machinery operators have clear transport routes to minimise the risk of electrical incidents.

“Remember that powerlines can sag in the heat, sway in the wind and be difficult to see at dawn and dusk and in dusty conditions,” David said.

“Machinery operators are advised to transport machinery in the lowered position and maintain a safe clearance distance from powerlines.

“Damaged or fallen powerlines can be a threat to the operator, public safety and can cause inconvenience to the local community through unplanned power outages.”

If machinery does contact overhead powerlines, contact Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80**.

Free safety stickers, an instructional safety DVD and agricultural safety fact sheets are available online at: [essentialenergy.com.au/agribusiness](http://essentialenergy.com.au/agribusiness).

Property owners can also access maps of Essential Energy’s overhead electricity network by calling 13 23 91 or visiting [essentialenergy.com.au/overhead](http://essentialenergy.com.au/overhead).

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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.