

What should you do if someone receives a severe electric shock?

D – Danger: Stay well away from electrical equipment – 8 metres for fallen powerlines. Switch off electricity immediately if possible or contact Essential Energy on **13 20 80**. Ensure the area is safe for all concerned before progressing further

R – Response: Check for a response, otherwise:

S – Send for help: Dial 000 for an ambulance

A – Airway: Check and clear airway

B – Breathing: Check for breathing. No breathing – start CPR

C – CPR: Start CPR

D – Defibrillation: Apply defibrillator and follow prompts.



The person will then need to be taken to hospital and monitored.

What should you do if someone receives a minor electric shock?

1. Anyone receiving an electric shock should seek medical attention as complications can arise after the event, even later that night, as we can never be sure of the impacts of the electric shock on an individual
2. Contact Essential Energy on **13 20 80** who will come to ensure that the site is safe
3. Minor tingles off taps should be reported as they are signs that a more dangerous situation may occur. **DO NOT** ignore the warning signs.

Reporting Electric Shocks to the Authorities

All electric shocks should be reported to Essential Energy on **13 20 80**

SafeWork NSW, NSW Fair Trading, NSW Trade & Investment or other state based organisations will require notification in accordance with the law but this will depend on the situation and circumstances.

What are the effects of electric shock?

The human body's response to electricity is varied and generally depends on the severity of the shock. These effects include:

1. Tingling sensation
2. Physical response that may cause someone to fall
3. Strong muscular contraction
4. Difficulty breathing
5. Burns
6. Arrhythmia (abnormal rhythm)
7. Cardiac arrest
8. Ventricular fibrillation.

Plumbers are at risk

- Plumbers are at risk of electric shock when cutting or breaking metallic water pipes, particularly the water service. A safe work procedure is needed that includes installing a suitably rated bridging cable across where the break in the pipe is to occur
- Essential Energy's "Electricity and Plumbing" fact sheet provides further information.



Bridging out of water meter

What should you do if your vehicle contacts powerlines?

Contact Essential Energy immediately on **13 20 80** to switch off the power. Remain with the vehicle until the power has been isolated and the powerlines removed

- The vehicle needs to be isolated as the hazard posed by an exploding tyre, can extend to 300m and for 24 hours after contact
- See Essential Energy's fact sheet "Emergency response to a powerline incident" for more details.

Be safe, because they need you



