

What should I do before commencing any work on a property?

- Know the location of powerlines on the property and their proximity to your work
- Provide workers with accurate, up-to-date maps/diagrams showing the location of powerlines on the property, also indicating safe traffic paths to eliminate the possibility of powerline contact
- Complete a risk assessment so as to identify and put in place the appropriate control measures to prevent any hazards (including work practices and procedures) which may have the potential to harm the health or safety of a person. This should be completed for each paddock and piece of machinery to be used
- Install visual markers in any areas where electrical hazards are identified prior to commencing work, as vision can be obstructed due to blind spots in machinery
- Carefully monitor weather conditions - powerlines can sway in winds, sag as temperature increases and are difficult to see at dawn and dusk
- Ensure operators are aware of the height and reach of their machinery in both stowed and working positions to ensure that minimum approach distance to powerlines are maintained (see Essential Energy's fact sheet 'Work near overhead powerlines' for minimum approach distances)
- Machinery measuring over 4.6 metres has a high risk of contacting overhead powerlines and should be closely monitored to ensure required minimum approach distances are maintained.



What else can I do to make my property power safe?

- Ensure maintenance of machinery and loading/unloading activities are carried out well away from powerlines
- To warn workers of the presence of overhead powerlines install appropriate signage at least 8 to 10 metres either side of powerlines.



For more information

Essential Energy's Public Safety team is available to facilitate Electrical Awareness sessions and discuss any questions relating to electrical safety.

For more information on electrical safety please call Essential Energy:

General enquiries **13 23 91**

Power outages **13 20 80**

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Essential Energy recommends you familiarise yourself with the latest SafeWork NSW Code of Practice 'Work near Overhead Powerlines' which can be viewed at: www.safework.nsw.gov.au or you can purchase a copy of the Code of Practice by contacting SafeWork NSW on **13 10 50**

Safe work habits

- Ensure required minimum approach distances are maintained. This is the amount of space required to be kept between machinery and anything held by a person and the powerlines in order to prevent electricity arcing to you or the machinery
- Assign a competent safety observer to each work team to guide machinery movements near overhead powerlines, in order to warn the person/operator of unsafe conditions and ensure that minimum safety approach distances are maintained
- Lower all machinery to the transport position when relocating.

SAFETY FIRST:

- You can still be injured without directly contacting an overhead powerline, as electricity can arc across open spaces – so keep your distance!
- Be aware that the apparent height of powerlines will vary depending upon the angle which they are viewed.
- Always treat all powerlines as live even though they may appear to be dead.

Be safe, because they need you

