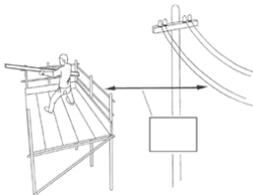


What should I do before starting work?

- 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 worksite and piece of machinery to be used
- Know the location of powerlines on your worksite and their proximity to your work
- Install appropriate signage around powerlines and worksites (see Essential Energy's fact sheet 'Increase visibility of powerlines' for more information)
- Contact Essential Energy and ensure warning covers such as tiger tails are installed over powerlines for the full length of scaffolding plus a minimum of five metres beyond each end - NB Tiger tails provide visual indication of overhead powerlines and do not provide protection against electrical hazards
- If possible, arrange for isolation of electricity supply by Essential Energy.

Safe work habits

- Ensure required minimum approach distances, 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 are maintained
- Where appropriate, provide ground barriers to warn workers of the presence of powerlines
- Allow for powerline movement from strong winds when positioning scaffold, to ensure that minimum safe approach distances are maintained



Minimum approach distance 4 metres

Note: Consideration must be given to sag and swing of the powerlines

- Assign a competent safety observer to each work team when moving, erecting or dismantling scaffolding near overhead powerlines, in order to warn the person/operator of unsafe conditions and ensure that minimum safety approach distances are maintained.

| Line voltage (and span in metres) | Minimum approach distance (metres) |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Not exceeding 66kV (maximum span 125m) | 4.0 |
| Exceeding 66kV (maximum span 125m) | 5.0 |
| Any voltage (Span greater than 125m but less than 250m) | 6.0 |
| Any voltage (Span greater than 250m but less than 500m) | 8.0 |
| Any voltage (span exceeding 500m) | 8.0 Refer to Essential Energy |

Minimum approach distances when working near 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**

Follow us  

or visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety

Essential Energy recommends you familiarise yourself with the latest SafeWork NSW Code of Practice 'Work near overhead powerlines' chapter 6, Work involving scaffolding near overhead powerlines, which can be viewed at www.safework.nsw.gov.au or you can purchase a copy by contacting SafeWork NSW on **13 10 50**.

SAFETY FIRST:

- You can still be injured without directly contacting an overhead powerline, as electricity can arc across open spaces - so keep your distance!
- Carefully monitor weather conditions - powerlines can sway in winds, sag as temperature increases and are difficult to see at dawn and dusk
- Always treat all powerlines as alive even though they may appear to be dead.

Be safe, because they need you

