

Electricity and irrigation



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

- ▶ Consider the location of powerlines prior to installing travelling irrigators and channels
- ▶ 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
- ▶ No one knows your property like you do. Have a good look around and think about anything that could hurt you or one of your workers. Once you are satisfied you have identified everything, think about how you can control these hazards to prevent harm
- ▶ Complete this review 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
- ▶ Carefully monitor weather conditions. Powerlines can sway in winds, sag as temperature increases and are difficult to see at dawn and dusk
- ▶ Machinery measuring over 4.6 metres have a higher risk of contacting overhead powerlines and should be closely monitored to ensure required safe approach distances are maintained (see Essential Energy's fact sheet 'Work near overhead powerlines' for minimum approach distances).

Safe work habits

- ▶ Assign a safety observer to each work team to guide the relocation and positioning of irrigation pipes near overhead powerlines, in order to warn the person operator of unsafe conditions and ensure that minimum safe approach distances are maintained
- ▶ Irrigation pipes should always be carried horizontally as they are generally 7-12 metres in length and if lifted vertically could easily contact powerlines
- ▶ Keep spray from irrigator clear of powerlines, as water can conduct electricity.



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

To warn workers of the presence of overhead powerlines:

- ▶ Install appropriate signage at least 8 to 10 metres either side of powerlines
- ▶ Where appropriate, provide ground barriers.

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.