To identify powerline locations, visit

### lookupandlive.com.au

and make a plan to stay safe when working near powerlines.



Scan with smartphone

# Working safely around electricity for Building and Construction



### **Call for safety advice**





13 74 66





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Emergency 1800 353 031 numbers

13 16 70 13 19 62

energex

13 12 53







ergon.com.au energex.com.au

Part of the Energy Queensland Group

Working in close proximity to powerlines, above or below the ground, has its hazards. Each year, too many workers make contact with powerlines. This includes contact with poles, wires and pillar boxes by vehicles, the loads they are carrying or their associated plant. Contact can occur when moving machinery and plant from one location to another, operating cranes and machinery or when working on roofs.

### **Practice safe work habits**

- Before starting work, take the time to plan. Visit **lookupandlive.com.au** - our powerline planning map to identify powerline locations and make a plan to work safe.
- Be aware of Electrical Safety Legislation relating to working around electricity. Obtain a copy of the "Code of Practice for Working Near Exposed Live Parts" and the "Electricity Entity Requirements: Working Near Overhead and Underground Electric Lines". Ensure all workers are familiar with the relevant sections for work being undertaken.
- Ensure workers have been suitably trained and are competent to perform the work being carried out.
- Complete a risk assessment for each structure and piece of machinery to be used and review at the start of each day or if conditions change.
- Ensure all new members of the workgroup, as well as any visitors to the site, are inducted to the Risk Assessment for any potential electrical hazards.
- Consider including a specific check on any risk assessment forms, work instructions or quotation pads to draw workers' attention to electrical safety.
- Ensure safe distances are maintained from all powerlines.
- Assign a Safety Observer to each work team to guide machinery movements or when handling material near overhead powerlines to ensure required clearances are maintained.
- Ensure operators of machinery or delivery vehicles are aware of the height of their vehicle or load and they have been advised of powerline locations.

- Be aware of reduced powerline clearances resulting from damage, often indicated by uneven conductors, excessive sag or slack stays.
- Stay well clear of damaged powerlines and report any damage immediately on triple zero (000).
- Provide ground barriers to warn workers of the presence of overhead powerlines and underground cables.
- Arrange for isolation of electricity supply or the application of visual indicators, such as Tigertails or powerline markers, onto the service and nearby powerlines by the Electrical Entity. (Tigertails provide visual indication of overhead powerlines but DO NOT provide protection against electrical hazards.)
- Be aware activities such as making repairs to roofing or guttering, painting, water blasting and scaffolding can be dangerous if carried out to close to overhead service lines and powerlines.
- Take extra care when handling roofing materials, especially when windy or at heights.
- Ensure any long objects such as ladders and trestle planks are carried horizontally.
- Be aware that under no circumstances must anything be attached to or built around powerlines, poles, pillar boxes or other Electrical Entity equipment.
- Remember that access is essential to keep powerlines and equipment safe and reliable. If you need to build close to overhead lines on a private property they may need to be placed underground or moved.

## In construction, demolition or removal work

- Contact us for advice at the planning stage of any construction or demolition activity. If any electricity services need to be upgraded, relocated, disconnected or de-energised, a formal request needs to be submitted well in advance of the work commencing.
- Do not start any work near any Electrical Entity equipment and do not demolish any structure where any Electrical Entity equipment is located, until it has been positively confirmed that this equipment has been made safe.

