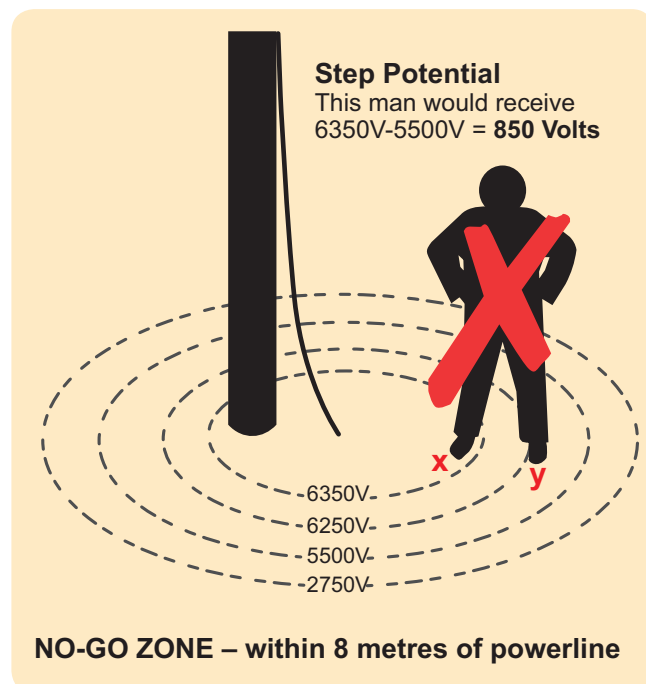




What to do if a vehicle contacts powerlines

What happens if overhead or underground powerlines are contacted?

1. The machinery or vehicle will become 'live' at the same voltage as the power lines contacted. The electricity will attempt to pass through the vehicle to the ground.
2. Anything else in contact with the powerlines will also become 'live', such as fences and trees.
3. A potentially dangerous electrical field will be created around anything in contact with the powerlines. This field extends for approximately 8 metres around these items.



What should you do if contact is made with powerlines?

Try not to panic, remain calm. An attempt should be made to break the contact by driving the vehicle a minimum of 8 metres away from the powerline. If it is not possible to break the contact:

1. Stay in the vehicle until the power has been isolated and the powerlines removed. Don't risk being electrocuted by attempting to leave the vehicle before power is disconnected.
2. Advise anyone near the incident site to stay a minimum of 8 metres away from the vehicle and anything else in contact with the powerlines.
3. Contact Ausgrid immediately on **13 13 88** to switch off the power and call the emergency services **(000)** reporting wires down and a life threatening situation.
4. Treat all powerlines as if they are 'live'.

What if the person in the vehicle needs to be evacuated?

An emergency evacuation of a vehicle is extremely dangerous and should only be attempted as a last resort, such as if the vehicle is on fire.

Remember never approach the vehicle to assist in an evacuation and always treat all powerlines as if they are 'live'.

1. If escape from the vehicle is absolutely necessary, it's critical that you jump clear ensuring that you don't have contact with the vehicle and ground at the same time.
2. When you jump, ensure that you land with your feet together and if required, take another one or two jumps with your feet still together, ensuring that you do not touch the vehicle, fall forward or backwards or allow your feet to step apart.
3. You must jump/shuffle with your feet together until you are at least 8 metres clear of the vehicle, power lines or anything else in contact with them. Avoid being in line with the side of the tyres/rims as they may explode.
4. Once clear, do not return to the vehicle for any reason.

Machinery operators should practise this jump technique on a regular basis.

Tyres can explode during or after contact with powerlines

If a vehicle contacts overhead powerlines, there will be a massive electrical current flowing through the vehicle and its tyres.

This can cause the tyres to explode on contact or could cause the tyres to start burning inside.

- This creates a buildup of gases and heat which could cause the tyre to explode at a later time, even 24 hours after the incident.
- The resulting explosion could potentially injure persons in the proximity with flying debris.
- The vehicle should be isolated at a safe distance for 24 hours to avoid injury.



Crane contacted overhead powerlines resulting in tyre explosion and extensive damage to truck and crane.



Concrete boom pump contact with overhead powerlines, result of electricity tracking through truck to earth.

Important Safety Tips

- Remain in the vehicle as escape is very risky.
- Never approach, attempt to rescue or allow others to approach any machinery or vehicles in contact with power lines.
- Stay a minimum of 8 metres from the vehicle (to be safe stay the length of a bus away).
- Treat all powerlines as if they are 'live'.
- Call **000** and Ausgrid on **13 13 88** immediately.
- A competent person should inspect all tyres, bearings and brakes before continued use of the vehicle.