

Working safely on the farm



Sadly, 1 in 5 NSW worker deaths are due to farming related activities. Contact between equipment and powerlines is one of the biggest killers in the industry.

Whether it's augers or aviation, livestock trailers, tip trucks or storage silos always know your limits and stay well clear of overhead powerlines. It can be difficult to see powerlines when you're working with machinery, but coming too close is all it takes for electricity to potentially arc, putting you at risk. Understanding how to avoid these risks is an important part in staying safe at work.

Know your limits when operating equipment

Equipment such as augers, harvesting machines, irrigation systems, tip trucks, and livestock trailers are all at greater risk of contacting with overhead powerlines.

Accidental contact with powerlines can result in fires, injury, electric shocks, burns, and even the loss of life. **There are no second chances with electricity**, so extra care is needed when working near electrical assets.

- ✓ Know the height of your vehicle, load and equipment.
- ✓ Watch the weather as powerlines can sway in wind and sag in heat.
- ✓ Stay alert, powerlines can be challenging to see at dawn and dusk.
- ✓ Download the **Look up and Live** and **Before You Dig Australia** apps to utilise the safety planning tools.



If you feel a zap or tingle from a tap, give us a call.

We'll send someone to check to make sure there isn't something wrong with your electricity supply.

Make the invisible visible!

✓ Aerial Markers

Consider using aerial markers such as rotamarkers to help visually indicate the location of overhead powerlines.

✓ Designate a spotter

A spotter is a safety observer that act as a second set of eyes to look out of powerlines and help with potential blind spots.

\$1,000 rebate to improve safety!

SafeWork NSW offers small businesses (up to 50 employees) a \$1,000 rebate towards the cost of workplace health and safety items.

Businesses will need to meet eligibility criteria prior to applying. To learn more visit nsw.gov.au and search '\$1000 SafeWork small business rebate'.

What to do if a vehicle comes in contact with powerlines



STOP what you're doing. Make the safe call.



CALL triple zero (000).



STAY in the vehicle until you have been told it is safe to exit.



For more information visit
ausgrid.com.au/farmsafety



Electrical risks or hazards on your property



The environment can be particularly harsh in the rural parts of Australia. Whether it's knowing what to check for with private electrical assets on your property to prevent bushfire risks or knowing what to do following a storm we can all help keep our customers and the community safe.

What can cause an electrical risk on private electrical equipment?

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the electrical equipment on their property such as private power poles and powerlines. Some electrical risks that can occur from not maintaining private electrical equipment include:

- Trees or vegetation growing too close to powerlines.
- Powerlines clashing or wires hanging too low.
- Termite damage which degrades the structural integrity of the pole(s).
- Damaged wires, crossarms or fittings.
- Rotting, rusting, split or damaged poles, which might cause them to lean or be at risk of falling.

Signs something might be wrong

Knowing the warning signs that something might be wrong could be the difference between life and death.

Flickering lights, burnt paddocks, deceased livestock, smoke, fallen trees and **power supply issues** could be indicators of an electrical fault or hazard.

How can Ausgrid help?

As the distributor, you can contact us for assistance relating to power outages, hazards, electrical emergencies or connections.

General Enquiries **13 13 65**

Outages & Emergencies (24/7) **13 13 88**

Staying safe in a flood or storm

Flood waters can hide dangerous debris and hazards like fallen powerlines. Never enter flooded waterways and **stay 8m away from fallen power lines or anything they may be touching.**

Weather events like **storms** or **high winds**, or **loose equipment** and **vegetation** can also bring down powerlines. Anything in contact with live wires can potentially conduct electricity, so **always assume the power is live.**

What to do if you see fallen powerlines

1

Stand back and leave removing storm debris on or in tangled powerlines to authorised personnel.

2

Always assume fallen powerlines are live, stay at least 8 meters away and call us on **13 13 88.**

3

We'll send a crew to check it out and complete any repair work needed to make the area safe.



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