

Look up and live

Safety around powerlines



Creating a safer state
with electricity and gas

When machinery comes into contact with powerlines, the results can be fatal. Always look up and live.

Powerlines are an integral part of our outdoor landscape, which makes them easy to forget. With the sun in your eyes, trees in your line of vision or if you are watching something else, you may not see how close you are to powerlines. Electricity-related deaths and accidents are preventable.

Follow our tips and procedures for safe working conditions outdoors and avoid injury or death by electrocution.

Powerlines can be difficult to see

- » Trucks and machinery are getting bigger but powerlines are still the same height.
- » Powerlines can be more difficult to see at dawn and dusk.
- » Single wire earth return (SWER) powerlines, which are commonly used in country areas, can be difficult to spot. Often they only have one line and there can be long distances between poles.
- » Environmental conditions can make conductors move and reduce clearances.

Be aware of what is above you

Take extra care if your work involves:

- » using tall machinery, such as cranes or augers
- » driving high vehicles
- » raising the tipper tray of trucks
- » raising equipment such as irrigation pipes overhead
- » climbing on top of machinery
- » climbing on or moving storage silos.

Using tall machinery

When working with tall machinery, always:

- » identify all electrical hazards before you start work
- » ensure you are working outside no go zones described in this brochure
- » monitor weather conditions. The height of lines can change depending on weather conditions—they can sag 2-3 metres in hot weather and sway in strong winds.

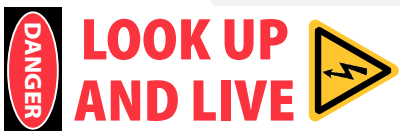
Trucks and machinery do not have to touch the powerlines for injury or electrocution to occur. Electricity can arc over in gaps in the air.

No go zones

Truck drivers, machinery operators, property owners and people working near powerlines must:

- » never work within 3 metres of overhead powerlines or poles
- » use a spotter when working between 3 and 6.4 metres of powerlines
- » never work within 8 metres of powerline towers
- » use a spotter when working between 8 and 10 metres of powerline towers.

Get to know Victoria's no go zone guidelines—they provide a framework for working safely near electrical infrastructure. Find out more at www.esv.vic.gov.au.



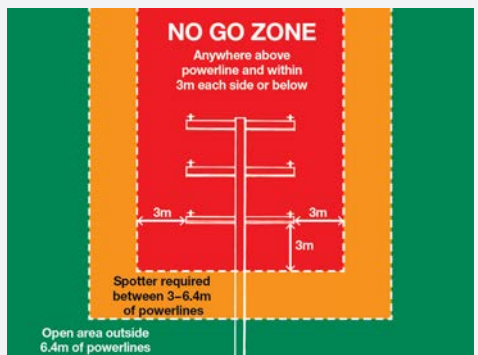
i Tips

Display Look up and live and No go zone stickers on all machinery. Place your order at www.esv.vic.gov.au/merchandise

Powerlines on poles



Powerlines on towers





**Further information is available on
our website at www.esv.vic.gov.au
or call [1800 800 159](tel:1800800159).**

**www.esv.vic.gov.au
03 9203 9700
info@energysafe.vic.gov.au**

Energy Safe Victoria
Level 5, 4 Riverside Quay, Southbank VIC 3006
ISBN: 978-1-925838-03-9 (Online)

