

# Farm safety



## Know the risks of farm work

**Sadly, 1 in 5 NSW worker deaths are due to farming related activities. Contact between mobile plant equipment and energised overhead powerlines is one of the biggest killers in the industry.** Whether it's tip trucks or augers, always know your limits and stay well clear of overhead powerlines. Coming too close is all it takes for electricity to potentially arc, putting you at risk.

## 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 coming in contact 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.

- ✓ Ensure all operators know the exact height of their vehicles, loads and machinery when lowered or fully extended.
- ✓ Keep an eye on the weather conditions as powerlines can sway in windy conditions and sag in hot weather.
- ✓ Stay alert, powerlines can be challenging to see at dawn and dusk.
- ✓ Download the **Look up and Live** and **Before You Dig Australia** app to utilise the safety planning tools.

## Understanding private assets

**Many rural properties have private electrical assets on their property. Managing risk by removing hazards from the electricity network is a responsibility that's shared between Ausgrid, our customers and the community.**

Ausgrid is responsible for building and maintaining the electricity network up to the connection point on your property. However, assets such as private power poles, powerlines and pole-top fittings beyond the point of connection are the primary responsibility of the property owner.

## Reduce the risk of an electrical hazard on your private assets

- 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.

## \$1,000 rebate to improve safety!

**SafeWork NSW offers small businesses (0-50 employees) a \$1,000 rebate towards the cost of workplace health and safety items.**

Businesses will need to meet eligibility criteria including completing an eligible SafeWork NSW education activity in the 12 months prior to applying. To learn more about the rebate program please visit the NSW Government website or contact SafeWork NSW directly.

**Call: 13 10 50**

**Email: [SafetyRebate@safework.nsw.gov.au](mailto:SafetyRebate@safework.nsw.gov.au)**



# Electrical risks on a farm



Large vehicles such as livestock trailers, high load vehicles, storage silos and aviation are all common on farms, but it is difficult to see powerlines when you're in these vehicles.

## Trucks and trailers

High load vehicles such as livestock trailers, instantly reduce the safe distance between overhead powerlines.

## Aviation

Without aerial overhead powerline markers, powerlines are virtually invisible when in an aircraft. Wire strikes account for about 57% of all agricultural aviation accidents.

## 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.

## What to do if a powerline comes in contact with a vehicle



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



**CALL** triple zero (000).



**STAY** in the vehicle until power has been isolated and the powerlines removed.

## 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.



## Silos and high vehicles

Walking on top of silos and high vehicles can bring you dangerously close to high voltage powerlines if located underneath.

## Irrigation systems

Water and electricity don't mix! Ensure all parts of an irrigation system are a safe 8m distance away from overhead powerlines, and that they are installed by a professional with the help of a spotter.

## 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.

## Signs something might be wrong

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

## Staying safe in a storm or flood

**Storms, high winds, loose equipment and vegetation** can all bring down powerlines. **Flood waters** can hide dangerous debris and hazards like **fallen powerlines**. The risk is that anything in contact with live wires can potentially conduct electricity, so always assume the power is live.

## How can Ausgrid help?

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

**13 13 65**  
General Enquiries

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