

Media Release



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Steer clear of the power network these holidays

Essential Energy is reminding drivers to exercise caution and avoid distraction when driving near the electricity network these school holidays.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said the holiday season could be a busy time on the roads and momentary lapses in concentration could lead to accidents.

“Essential Energy has thousands of roadside power poles and electrical boxes on nature strips across NSW and parts of southern Queensland,” David said.

“If a vehicle comes into contact with these electrical assets it can threaten the personal safety of those driving and also their passengers and the general public,”

Bystanders should remain at least eight metres clear of the scene, any fallen power lines or exposed wiring. Rescue should not be attempted until the power is disconnected.

“If your vehicle contacts a pole or powerline, call Essential Energy immediately on 13 23 80 to switch off the power. Remain calm and stay in the vehicle until the power has been isolated and the wires removed,” David said.

An emergency evacuation is extremely dangerous and should only be attempted as a last resort such as when the vehicle is on fire. If the situation is life-threatening, call Triple 0 (000) immediately.

“If you must exit the vehicle, first check for fallen powerlines and then jump well clear to avoid contact with the vehicle and ground at the same time,” David said.

“When you jump, ensure you land with your feet together. Do not touch the vehicle, fall forward or backward, or allow your feet to step apart.

“Jump or shuffle with your feet together until you are at least eight metres clear of the vehicle, powerlines or anything else in contact with them.”

Always treat powerlines and anything in contact with them as live. If you suspect someone may have received an electrical shock, do not attempt to touch them and call for emergency assistance.

For more information on electrical safety, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety.

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