

What should I do before starting any work on a property?

- Consider the location of powerlines prior to installing travelling irrigators and channels
- Provide workers with accurate, up-to-date maps/diagrams showing the location of powerlines on the property, also indicating safe traffic paths to eliminate the possibility of powerline contact
- Complete a risk assessment so as to identify and put in place the appropriate control measures to prevent any hazards (including work practices and procedures) which may have the potential to harm the health or safety of a person. This should be completed for each paddock and piece of machinery to be used
- Install visual markers in any areas where electrical hazards are identified prior to commencing work
- Carefully monitor weather conditions - powerlines can sway in winds, sag as temperature increases and are difficult to see at dawn and dusk
- Machinery measuring over 4.6 metres have a high risk of contacting overhead powerlines and should be closely monitored to ensure required minimum approach distances are maintained (see Essential Energy's fact sheet 'Work near overhead powerlines' for information on minimum approach distances).



Safe work habits

- Assign a competent safety observer to each work team to guide the relocation and positioning of irrigation pipes near overhead powerlines, in order to warn the person/operator of unsafe conditions and ensure that minimum safe approach distances are maintained
- Irrigation pipes should always be carried horizontally as they are generally 7-12 metres in length and if lifted vertically could easily contact powerlines
- Keep spray from irrigator clear of powerlines, as water can conduct electricity.

What else can I do to make my property power safe'?

- To warn workers of the presence of overhead powerlines:
 - Install appropriate signage at least 8 to 10 metres either side of powerlines
 - Where appropriate, provide ground barriers.



For more information

Essential Energy's Public Safety team is available to facilitate Electrical Awareness sessions and discuss any questions relating to electrical safety. For more information on electrical safety please call Essential Energy:

General enquiries **13 23 91**

Power outages **13 20 80**

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or visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety

Essential Energy recommends you familiarise yourself with the latest SafeWork NSW Code of Practice 'Work near Overhead Powerlines' which can be viewed at: www.safework.nsw.gov.au or you can purchase a copy of the Code of Practice by contacting SafeWork NSW on **13 10 50**

SAFETY FIRST:

- You can still be injured without directly contacting an overhead powerline, as electricity can arc across open spaces – so keep your distance!
- Be aware that the apparent height of powerlines will vary depending upon the angle which they are viewed
- Always treat all powerlines as alive even though they may appear to be dead.

Be safe, because they need you

