

Flood response

Using high-level heavy machinery safely



In any emergency flood response, the natural reaction is to start the clean-up work immediately. However, it is crucial when operating any clean-up and recovery tasks to work safely and correctly around the electricity network, this includes understanding that all powerlines and network assets must be treated as live.

All agencies (i.e. Councils, Defence Force), volunteers, community members, machinery operators and tradespeople must be aware of their surroundings, be aware of powerline locations, network assets (including pits/pillars and cubicles) and keep well clear (at least 3m), and most importantly, stay safe around electricity.

Refer to the steps below to ensure everyone's safety:

> Download the Look Up and Live app

The Look Up and Live app is free and provides powerline safety at your fingertips, so you can use it to assist in the safe planning and performance of work around the electricity network by providing:

- Overhead powerline locations and imagery via an interactive geospatial map
- Powerline safety guidelines, including powerline exclusion zones
- Options for planning or performing work i.e. powerline visual indicators
- Underground (UG) pits/pillars and cubicles
- **Download the app at lookupandlive.com.au**

- > For anyone using diggers, excavators or other similarly high-level heavy machinery it's essential to refer to the Look Up and Live app prior to commencing work. It's also important to know the height of your machinery and the clearance distances required around powerlines
- > It's important to watch for signs on the ground and associated above ground electricity network assets which may indicate the presence of electricity assets – such as electricity boxes on footpaths. These assets could be buried under discarded flood affected equipment
- > As you're cleaning up, stack equipment away from power poles and green electricity boxes on footpaths, and remember to treat all powerlines as live.



If machinery or equipment contacts overhead or underground powerlines, it's important you know how to respond.

- > **Stay** in your vehicle, **call** 000 immediately and **wait** until Essential Energy arrives and tells you it's safe to exit the vehicle/machine
- > If escape is absolutely necessary, jump well clear to avoid contact with the vehicle and ground at the same time
- > When you jump, land with your feet together. Do not touch the vehicle, fall or allow your feet to step apart
- > You must shuffle or jump, with your feet together until you are at least 8 metres clear of the vehicle, powerlines or anything else in contact with them
- > Once clear, do not return to the vehicle for any reason
- > Remember to never approach a vehicle to assist in an evacuation and always treat powerlines as if they are 'live'.



SAFETY FIRST

Fail to plan...plan to fail. It's not worth the risk when working around the electricity network.

NSW Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation mandates that specific steps are undertaken to adequately identify and manage hazards associated with overhead or underground energised electric lines.

Overhead Powerlines – work in the vicinity of overhead powerlines must be undertaken in accordance with SafeWork NSW Code of Practice – Work Near Overhead Powerlines.

Underground Powerlines – it's a legislative requirement that a DBYD be completed before any mechanical excavation deeper than 150mm, or hand excavation deeper than 300mm.

For some worksites you may need to meet the legislative requirements for both work in the vicinity of OH and UG powerlines e.g. excavations.