

Flood clean-up safety



Cleaning up after floods is an essential part of the recovery effort.

However, even when the floodwaters have receded there is still serious risk of injury or even fatality when working around the electricity network.

The safest approach is to treat all powerlines and electricity network assets as though they are live.

Follow these key guidelines to stay safe:

- > Be aware of where you are working and the nearby potential dangers
- > Keep at least 3m clear of:
 - Overhead powerlines
 - Power poles
 - Electricity pits, pillars and cubicles
 - Padmount substations
- > Use the Look Up and Live app

This free app helps you plan your work safely with:

 - Overhead powerline locations and imagery via an interactive geospatial map
 - Powerline safety guidelines, including powerline exclusion zones
 - How to improve safe work planning and operations for planning or performing work i.e. powerline visual indicators
 - Underground pits/pillars and cubicles
- Visit essentialenergy.com.au/lookupandlive
- > If you are using a digger, excavator or other similar high-level heavy machinery, know the maximum height and expansion width of your machinery. Use the Look Up and Live app to plan work and make sure you will stay safe and alive by keeping outside the electricity network clearance distance
- > Warning! Electricity network assets like electricity pillars and boxes may have been buried under rubbish. Keep an eye out for signage or connected electricity network assets
- > Stack equipment away from power poles and green electricity boxes on footpaths, and remember to treat all powerlines as live.



Be aware of the height of powerlines and your machinery, before you begin work clearing flood affected roads.

What to do if something goes wrong

If your vehicle contacts overhead or underground powerlines:

- > **Stay** in the vehicle wherever there is no life-threatening situation, **Call** 000 and **Wait** until Essential Energy arrives and gives the all clear to leave the vehicle
- > If escape is absolutely necessary (because of fire), jump well clear to avoid contact with the vehicle and the ground at the same time
- > When you jump, land with your feet together. Do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time, fall or allow your feet to step apart. Do not return to the vehicle for any reason
- > 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
- > **Call Essential Energy on 13 20 80**
- > Remember to never approach a vehicle to assist in an evacuation and always treat powerlines as if they are 'live'.



Be aware of your surroundings when creating rubbish piles and when setting up to load.

SAFETY FIRST

If you fail to plan, you're planning 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 (OH) – work in the vicinity of overhead powerlines must be undertaken in accordance with SafeWork NSW Code of Practice – Work Near Overhead Powerlines.

Underground Powerlines (UG) – it's a legislative requirement that a **Dial Before You Dig (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.