

## More information

### Electrical Safety Office

WorkSafe.qld.gov.au  
1300 362 128

### Ergon Energy

ergon.com.au  
13 74 66

### Energex

energex.com.au  
13 12 53

### Dial Before You Dig

1100.com.au

### Powerlink Queensland

powerlink.com.au  
1800 635 369

### Essential Energy

essentialenergy.com.au  
13 20 80



## Working safely near powerlines in the rural industry

Working near powerlines can be fatal. Touching them or straying into the exclusion zone around them can result in a serious electric shock.



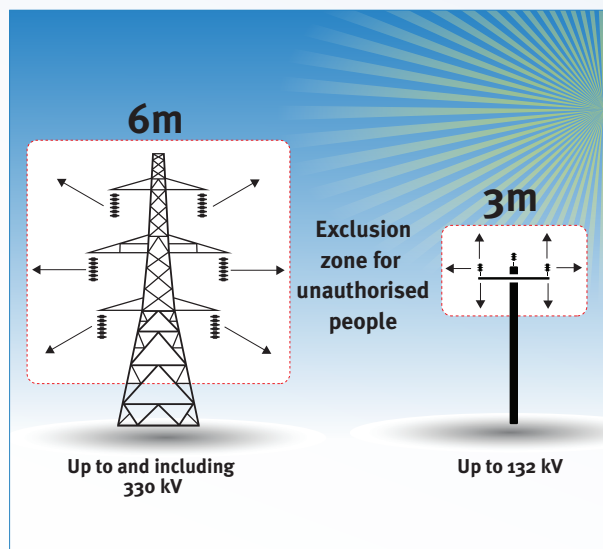
If you must work near powerlines, you should follow these three steps:

**1. Develop a safe system of work before you start**

- Identify overhead and underground powerlines by consulting maps and/or talking to the property owner and electrical entity.
- Conduct a site specific risk assessment – think about the type of plant and equipment/tools used, nature and size of loads being moved, site and weather conditions, type of work being done, and set-up and pack-up procedures.
- Put risk controls in place – the most effective way of controlling the risk is to de-energise the line for the duration of work where there is a risk of contact.

**2. Keep your workers/contractors and family informed about electrical safety**

- Induct and train your workers and contractors in safe work procedures, emergency procedures, and exclusion zones (*Figure 1*).
- Carefully plan the tasks to be completed near powerlines and work away from them whenever possible, not underneath them.
- Show your workers the safe distance from an exclusion zone by marking it on the ground.

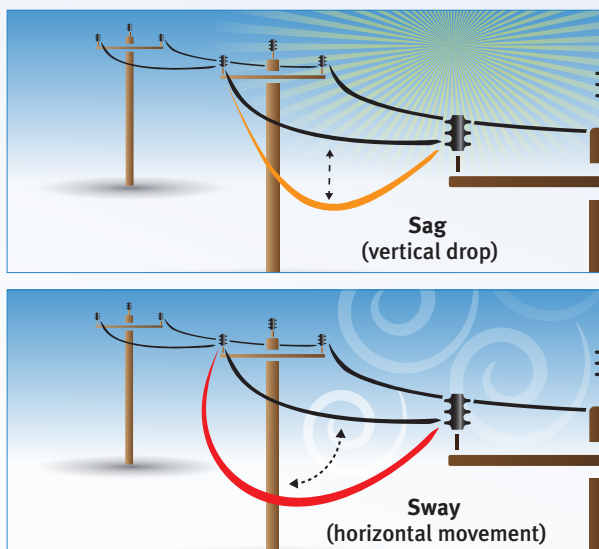


*Figure 1.*

- Ensure people are aware that powerlines sag or sway in hot or windy weather (*Figure 2*).
- Harvesters, elevated work platforms, irrigation pipes, grain augers, elevators, mobile grain silos, cranes, tippers and excavators have the potential to enter exclusion zones. Ensure your operators know the height and reach of machinery or hand held items to be used.

**3. Avoid going into exclusion zones**

- Make powerlines and poles visible. Ask your electrical entity for permission to paint power poles and/or have them install markers or flags on the powerlines.
- Lower toppers, harvesters and elevators when moving equipment to avoid contact with powerlines.
- Use a safety observer to make sure you stay well clear of exclusion zones.
- Where possible, use insulated or non-conductive tools and equipment.
- Follow the safety advice given by your electrical entity.



*Figure 2.*