
“Look Up and Live” – Safety Campaign

Victorian electricity distributor SP AusNet, along with Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is again warning truck drivers, machinery operators and property owners of the need to ‘Look Up and Live’ around overhead powerlines in regional Victoria.

SP AusNet Group Manager Health, Safety, Environment and Quality, David Hopkins said truck drivers and farmers must always take care when working around overhead powerlines and that safety must never be compromised.

“Electrocutions caused by trucks hitting powerlines on rural properties are on the increase in Victoria. Particularly this time of year with the number of deliveries of fertilizer, lime and bulk materials to farms are on the rise.

“Powerlines are integral to Australia’s outdoor landscape and it’s for this reason that they’re sometimes missed, the consequences of which can unfortunately be fatal,” Mr Hopkins said.

“If you are not concentrating, you may not see how close you are to powerlines. You need to ensure that you make yourself aware of what is above you as well as the task at hand,” he said.

Mr Hopkins said storing bulk deliveries away from powerlines and never raising the tipper tray of trucks underneath powerlines were just two simple and straightforward precautions that must be observed when working with trucks and machinery near powerlines.

Victoria’s comprehensive ‘No Go Zone’ rules and regulations must always be observed.

SP AusNet and ESV recommend the following safety advice to truck drivers, machinery operators and property owners when in the vicinity of overhead powerlines:

- Identify all areas where powerlines cross properties;
- Obtain a copy of the ‘No Go Zone’ rules and regulations and study them closely – available at www.esv.vic.gov.au;
- When operating machinery, vehicles or equipment, stay at least 6.4 metres clear of high voltage overhead powerlines, and 10 metres clear of transmission lines
- Monitor weather conditions. Powerlines can move in high winds or on days of high electricity demand;
- Be aware that powerlines can be difficult to see at all times, particularly at dawn and dusk;
- Remember that no work should be carried out within the confines of powerlines, whether it’s a last resort or not;
- Relocate bulk delivery storage sites to a safe area away from powerlines;
- Display ‘Look Up and Live’ stickers on any machinery or equipment that is raised overhead;
- Obtain a copy of the ‘Look Up, Look Down – And Live’ DVD from ESV
- Identify all electrical hazards before starting work. If in any doubt contact SP AusNet on **1300 360 795**

For media enquiries please contact:

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SP AusNet and ESV are broadcasting television and radio commercials in regional areas warning people to always 'Look Up and Live'.

'Look Up and Live' brochures, stickers and posters are also available from ESV. One of the stickers, which can be placed on the inside of windscreens, details the safe working distances that must be observed between trucks, machinery and powerpoles.

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www.sp-ausnet.com.au