LIVING SAFELY WITH ELECTRICITY

When working outside, whether it's a small job or large job or even something you do every day, you need to be aware of the electrical dangers of working near overhead power lines or underground cables.

Endeavour Energy wants to help protect you from potential electrical dangers on your work site. In turn, this will ensure families, households and businesses can continue to enjoy a safe and reliable electricity supply.

This brochure highlights some of the things you can do to avoid electrical dangers on the job.

Did you know?

Australian households receive communication, gas, water and electrical services via a labyrinth of cables stretching millions of kilometres underground. If just one of these cables is damaged, you could potentially be seriously injured and/or isolate thousands of households from essential services. Such incidents can result in hefty fines.

01 Call Emergency Services on **000**.

02 Request an ambulance if anyone is injured.

03 Report the incident to Endeavour Energy on **131 003** as soon as possible.

SAFETY EXCELLENCE

IN EMERGENCIES CALL 131 003

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

If you have any questions about what you should do to stay safe around damaged power lines and other electrical infrastructure please call 131 081 or visit us at www.endeavourenergy.com.au

0611-ENE2351-CONT

SAFETY ON THE JOB

51 Huntingwood Drive
Huntingwood NSW 2148
PO Box 6366 Blacktown NSW 2148
T: 131 081 • F: 61 2 9853 6000

Endeavour Energy

Call 131 003 and put safety first.
www.endeavourenergy.com.au

Endeavour Energy

BE ALERT AT WORK

Do you know where the underground cables are?

Unfortunately, serious incidents occur when excavators hit underground cables because cables aren't identified before work has commenced. Obtaining information about underground cable locations once involved making numerous calls to many utility providers.

Now there's really no excuse. Information and site maps showing the general location of underground services can be obtained by calling **1100** or visit **www.1100.com.au**. Remember it's the law.

Check, double check, triple check and reassess

Always check, double check, triple check and reassess for electrical dangers on the job. Remember, earthmoving operations often require material to be relocated to mounds or piles. When this happens under and around power lines it reduces the clearance distances between plant and the electrical infrastructure.

Completed your job?

Stay alert when packing up or removing scaffolding or equipment or when returning plant to its transit position.

Transporting trees?

Remember tall trees and shrubs such as palms can come into contact with power lines. Water is a good conductor of electricity and can therefore conduct through vegetation due to its water content.

Excavating?

Always check the voltage of cables listed on plans so that you can then apply this to *Work Near Underground Assets Guide 2007*, WorkCover NSW, to determine what the clearance and other requirements are to commence excavation. Select the safest plant for the job, e.g. toothless buckets and blunt hand tools. Before using mechanical plant to dig, use a cable location service to check the accuracy of plans. Always pothole by hand with non-conductive, blunt hand tools.

Look up and live

If a tip-truck, scaffolding, pump, ladder, crane or metal platform approaches or comes in contact with overhead power lines, the operator and even people nearby, could be electrocuted. Before starting work always look up and identify the location of any overhead power lines. Plan the job to minimise work near and around power lines.

Compare the height of power lines to the maximum height of your equipment, and ensure the full reach of your equipment will not breach the approach distances outlined in the *Work Near Overhead Power Lines Code of Practice 2006*, WorkCover NSW. For "ordinary persons" WorkCover requires an approach distance of at least three metres from overhead power lines (up to 132,000 volts).

Additional clearances are required when working near power lines carrying higher voltages. It's also a good idea to nominate a co-worker to observe and check that you and your equipment do not go into the approach distance zone.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Electricity can jump

You don't have to be touching power lines to get an electric shock because electricity can 'jump' – also known as arcing. A safe 'clearance' distance needs to be maintained to prevent electricity from arcing across to you and your equipment.

Five things to remember

01 Check, double check, triple check and reassess – always assess your work site for electrical dangers before you start and stay alert until you've left the site.

02 Look up and live – identify the location of overhead power lines and plan your job away from them.

03 Dial **1100** or visit **www.1100.com.au** before you dig – confirm the location of all underground cables before you begin any excavation work.

04 Before using mechanical plant to dig, check the accuracy of your plans using a cable location service. Pothole by hand using blunt plant items.

05 Always maintain a minimum approach distance from power lines and assign a co-worker as an observer while you operate and move machinery around power lines.

DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG® www.1100.com.au