

CFMEU SAFETY GUIDANCE

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WORKING IN THE VICINITY OF OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Working within the Danger Zone - means anywhere that — is within 0.5 meters of a live insulated overhead power line or aerial bundled conductor line of a voltage of not more than 1000 volts or is within 1.0 metre of a live uninsulated overhead power line of a voltage of not more than 1000 volts; or is within 3.0 meters of a live overhead power line, whether insulated or not, of a voltage exceeding 1000 volts but not more than 33 000 volts; or within 6.0 meters of a live overhead power line, whether insulated or not, of a voltage exceeding 33 000 volts.

The Occupation Safety and Health Regulations (1996) state that a person who, at a workplace, is an employer, the main contractor, a self-employed person or a person having control of the workplace must ensure that an employee or any plant or material used or controlled by an employee does not enter the danger zone of an overhead power line and must ensure that the overhead power line has been adequately insulated and effectively cordoned off to protect the safety of persons or otherwise made safe, as the case requires

A Safe Work Method Statement must be established prior to 'ANY' work in the vicinity of overhead power lines commences.

WORKING SAFELY NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Builders should plan ahead as far as possible to maximise safety. Electricity distribution authorities can isolate most overhead power lines when sufficient notice is given and every attempt should be made to achieve isolation.

Where appropriate, limiting devices should be fitted to plant to prevent the crane jibs, excavator arms etc from contacting the power line or entering the danger zone (limiting devices are generally more suitable for tower cranes than mobile cranes).

Visual aids such as tiger tails, attached by the power supplier and made of non-conductive material should be tied to aid visibility of the power lines, and a dedicated spotter should be appointed to provide a warning to the crane operator should the crane or load approach the boundary of the danger zone.

Where overhead power lines have been isolated, the operator should retain the electricity authorities' isolation permit during operations. Where there is no isolation permit, all power lines must be treated as live.

An exclusion zone must be established to prevent persons (members of the public and workers) not directly involved in the lifting process from entering the area while lifting is taking place.

Persons working in close proximity to overhead power lines when carrying metallic or conductive tools, materials etc. must ensure the item does not encroach into the exclusion zone.

REMEMBER ELECTRICITY KILLS

REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM

Stand up. Speak out. Come home.