

# WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING, DO IT SAFELY.

**Look Up**  
for powerlines overhead

**Look Down**  
Dial 1100 Before You Dig

**Look Out**  
for power poles, transformers and green domes

## Safety guidelines

Working near powerlines and other electricity infrastructure can be extremely dangerous. Western Power recommends the following safety guidelines:

- Always assume powerlines are live. If you see a fallen powerline do not go near it - call 13 13 51 immediately.
- Do not interfere with powerlines in any way. Contact with powerlines can result in electrocution and power interruptions.
- Do not touch anything that is touching powerlines, for example tree branches. If you touch any part of a tree that is touching a line, you risk serious injury or death from electric shock.
- Locate and keep clear of ground-based infrastructure such as transformers, kiosks and green domes.
- Use a safety observer to monitor and warn against unsafe approach to live equipment or other unsafe conditions. The observer must be competent and have the authority to stop the work if necessary.



## WHAT TO DO IF AN ELECTRICAL ACCIDENT OCCURS

The human body conducts electricity. If an electric shock is received, electricity will continue to flow through the human body until the electricity source is removed. If you witness an electrical accident, it is important to respond quickly, but with caution.

In the event of an accident involving powerlines, never go near or touch powerlines. Electricity from powerlines can jump or 'arc' through the air and travel to earth through your body, resulting in electrocution. Western Power strongly recommends the following steps:

- phone **000** for emergency services;
- do not go near an injured person if they are near powerlines and there is any possibility that they have been electrocuted;
- call Western Power on **13 13 51** to disconnect the power;
- if powerlines have fallen across a vehicle, tell the occupants to stay inside the vehicle until emergency services arrive;
- stand back and urge others to keep a distance of at least six metres from downed powerlines; and
- do not approach the scene until the proper authorities have declared the area safe.

# STAYING SAFE WHEN WORKING NEAR ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

### For further information

If you have any questions or concerns about working near powerlines, please call Western Power on 13 10 87.

Website: [www.westernpower.com.au](http://www.westernpower.com.au)

WorkSafe and EnergySafety can also provide information relating to 'danger zones' and working safely near electricity.

WorkSafe 1300 307 877  
EnergySafety (08) 9422 5200

For faults or emergencies, please call Western Power on 13 13 51.





# ELECTRICITY IS DANGEROUS

Working near powerlines can be extremely dangerous. Every year serious electrical accidents occur when safe work practices are not followed. To protect yourself and others against injury, it is important to plan ahead and ensure that all work can be carried out safely before you begin.

This brochure outlines the steps that must be taken before work near overhead and underground powerlines can commence.

The brochure also provides safety information that will ensure you are safe whilst working around electricity infrastructure.

## Are you planning to work near overhead or underground powerlines?

It is the responsibility of the site owner, company or contractor to ensure that work near overhead or underground powerlines can be carried out safely and that no person, material or equipment involved in the performance of the work enters the 'danger zone' around powerlines at any time. There are serious penalties for breaching this important safety regulation.

If you are planning work near powerlines you must obtain permission from Western Power before you commence. The process for obtaining permission is outlined below.

**1** Contact Dial 1100 Before You Dig, to locate underground cables and other networks in the vicinity of proposed work.

**2** Download, complete and return a *Request to Work Near Underground and Overhead Powerlines* to Western Power. Forms available from [www.westernpower.com.au](http://www.westernpower.com.au) or Western Power Customer Services on 13 10 87.

*A Request **must** be lodged for any type of work near powerlines including: building, construction and demolition; renovating buildings, particularly second storeys; erecting signs or scaffolding; building shopfronts; using cranes; farming; and, vegetation pruning.*

**3** When Western Power receives your request a *Voltage Profile*, containing information about the 'danger zone' for the proposed worksite, will be forwarded.

*The 'danger zone' is an area surrounding powerlines that people, equipment and materials **must not** enter. The size of the zone varies depending on the voltage of the powerlines. More information from WorkSafe or: [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au)*

**4** Can the work be completed without entering the 'danger zone'?

**NO Do not commence work.**

Notify Western Power Customer Services that you need to enter the 'danger zone' by completing the *Request a Quotation* section of the *Part B* form (included with *Voltage Profile*) and faxing it to 9225 2004.

**YES Prior to commencing work** complete the *Applicant Acceptance* section of the *Part B* form (included with *Voltage Profile*) and fax to Western Power Customer Services on 9225 2004 to acknowledge the conditions under which work can progress.

**5** Western Power will provide a quotation for covering, isolating or de-energising powerlines so work can proceed safely.

*Note: the process for providing covers or isolating powerlines requires approximately 6-8 weeks. Please allow 15 working days for covers to be installed after Western Power has received payment.*

### More information about working near electricity

Western Power publishes an information pack for people seeking permission to work near overhead powerlines. Also available are guidelines for excavating near underground or overhead powerlines. Both publications and further information about working near electricity infrastructure are available from **Western Power on 13 10 87** or from: [www.westernpower.com.au](http://www.westernpower.com.au)



## Dial 1100 Before You Dig

If your work involves digging, it is essential that you contact Dial **1100** Before You Dig - a free national referral service that is the best way to obtain information about the location of underground networks including electricity, gas, communications and water.

Dialling **1100** Before You Dig can prevent damage and disruption to underground pipe and cable networks and the risk of injury or death associated with this, particularly if the pipes and cables relate to electrical networks. Disrupting a single cable or pipe can also leave an entire community without essential services, and may incur heavy penalties.

You can also lodge a Dial **1100** Before You Dig enquiry via [www.dialbeforeyoudig.com.au](http://www.dialbeforeyoudig.com.au) and plans for underground services will be sent to you via email, fax or post.

### Always remember to follow the 4Ps:

#### Plan

Follow the five steps outlined in this brochure to ensure all necessary information and approvals have been obtained. Keep your plans onsite.

#### Pothole

Use a hand shovel to establish the exact location of all underground cabling.

#### Protect

Always erect safety barriers in risk areas to protect underground cabling. Protecting exposed equipment is the responsibility of the contractor.

#### Proceed

Only commence digging once you have planned, potholed and protected.