



More information

Our Community Safety Team is available to discuss any questions relating to electrical safety legislation and requirements.

Call 1300 736 349

Network customer service 13 74 66

7.00am - 6.30pm, Monday to Friday

Faults only 13 22 96

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**Life-threatening emergencies only
000 (Triple zero) or 13 16 70**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

ergon.com.au

Ergon Energy Corporation Limited ABN 50 087 646 062



NETWORK

Working safely
around electricity on

Cotton Farms



NETWORK



Working in close proximity to powerlines, above or below the ground, has its hazards. Unfortunately each year, the workers in the cotton industry come in contact with Ergon Energy assets. This includes contact with poles, wires and pillar boxes by vehicles, the loads they are carrying or their associated plant. Contact can occur during harvesting, spraying, moving machinery and plant from one location to another or when irrigating.

Before you start work

- Talk to the person in control of the property about any work areas which may be hazardous.
- Know the location of overhead and underground powerlines, poles and stays on the property and their proximity to your work.
- Complete a hazard assessment for each paddock and piece of machinery to be used.
- Install visual markers in any areas where electrical hazards are identified prior to commencing work. Vision can be obstructed by machinery blind spots.
- Monitor weather conditions closely as powerlines can sway in winds, sag as temperature increases and are difficult to see at dawn and dusk.
- Be aware of reduced powerline heights resulting from damage, often indicated by uneven powerlines, excessive sag or slack stays.
- Stay well clear of damaged powerlines and report them immediately on 13 22 96.
- Ensure operators are aware of the height of their machinery in both stowed and working positions.
- Monitor closely any machinery being operated to ensure required powerline exclusion zone clearances are maintained.
- Ensure all farm workers know the emergency procedures applicable for the work being carried out and the relevant emergency contacts.

Practice safe work habits

- Identify all electrical hazards, assess the risks, establish and introduce control measures, review control measures periodically. Control measures may include but may not be restricted to:
 - Appropriate signage at least 10 metres either side of powerlines.
 - Visual indicators such as flag markers fitted to the powerlines (contact us for advice).
 - Ground barriers where possible.
 - Informing workers of required work practices.
- Assign a safety observer to each work team to guide machinery movements near overhead powerlines.
- Ensure required exclusion zone clearances between machinery and powerlines are maintained.
- Lower the ram/tramper to the transport position when relocating cotton module makers.
- Build modules well away from overhead powerlines.
- Make boll buggy pick-ups well clear of overhead powerlines.
- Lower the bars on top of cotton pickers when relocating from paddock to paddock and farm to farm.
- Carry out maintenance and storage activities well away from powerlines.
- Contact us on 13 74 66 about marking powerlines and power poles on your property.

Transporting a high load?

High loads come in all shapes and sizes. If the height of your load or plant exceeds 4.6 metres you are transporting a high load.

You will be required to know your load dimensions (vehicle and load), proposed route and times for transport. We will need to scope / assess the route to ensure the high load will not contact overhead powerlines.

It's essential that you obtain a Notification to Transport High Loads form from us by calling 13 74 66 or emailing highloads2@ergon.com.au



Call 13 74 66 for safety advice or high load permits.