Working safely around electricity for buildings, structures and billboards

Call for safety advice

13 74 66 13 16 70
13 12 53 1800 635 369 1800 353 031

13 19 62
Working in close proximity to powerlines, above or below the ground, has its hazards. It is extremely dangerous and potentially life threatening to allow anything to come in close proximity to the conductors of an electricity powerline.

Ensure you’re in the clear

When planning and before the commencement of work (regardless of whether or not local council approval is required), it is essential to confirm that the proposed construction work (e.g. building, structure, sign, crane, scaffold) does not breach the minimum statutory clearance distances that must be maintained from nearby Electricity Entity overhead or underground powerlines. Refer to the Queensland Electrical Safety Regulation 2013, Schedule 4 and 5 for information on statutory clearance distances that must be complied with.

Minimum distances from the closest powerline to the building or other structures must be maintained during strong winds or high operating temperatures. Under these conditions, the powerline can swing or sag considerably towards the building or structure. It is important to allow for these situations at the time of planning so contact with powerlines does not occur.

Contact the Electricity Entity when planning construction work near powerlines or if it appears that powerlines are closer to a building or structure than the minimum statutory clearance.

Situations where minimum safety clearances should be considered include:

• Knock down and rebuilds, where a small, single story home is replaced by a larger or double story home, or where land is rezoned to allow multi-storey construction, such as apartments or town houses
• Moving the location of a driveway or building driveways close to pillars or poles
• Installing a tall antenna in areas where broadcast reception is poor
• Erecting a flag pole or shade sails
• Any building work near overhead or underground powerlines
• Erecting a cubby house
• Raising the ground level below powerlines
• Erecting metal fences or scaffolding close to poles or powerlines
• Excavating near poles, stay wires or where electricity assets run underground
• Using a crane near overhead powerlines
• Erecting or maintaining signs or billboards
• Erecting sheds
• Erecting carports below points of attachments.

Working safely near powerlines

Contact the Electricity Entity for safety advice on working around electrical parts and ensure exclusion zones are maintained.

The point of attachment is where the electrical service wires attach to a home or building. When work is being carried out near the point of attachment, special care must be taken to avoid contact with these electrical wires, the mounting bracket and the mains box.

Care must be taken when:

• Cleaning leaves from guttering
• Painting gutters, fascias and eaves
• Replacing the roofing or the guttering
• Pruning trees and shrubs (particularly around service wires).