



Important Dates for March 19:

- 4th - Labour Day (WA)
- 4th - Toolbox talk - Discuss the months Life Saving Commitment
- 5th - King Island Show (Tas)
- 11th - Public Holiday (SA, Tas, Vic, ACT)
- 13th - Complete PlantSafes
- 19th - Complete Supervisors Checklist (Site & hand or mechanical fall)
- 31st - Record odometer for FBT reporting

Disclaimer: The tax lodgement dates are for a small business that reports quarterly. It is your responsibility to check that these dates are relevant to your business. Check www.ato.gov.au/TaxCalendar

**"Look
Up**

Owen Spicer
OH&S Manager

Recently a number of overhead powerlines have been brought down by trees being felled, over height plant being floated under powerlines or powerlines being struck by harvest plant whilst in operation. Contact with overhead power lines (OHPL) can be fatal or cause severe electric shock and burn injuries. This can also happen when a person or object is close enough to OHPL for a “flashover” to occur.

Overhead powerlines are part of our landscape – sometimes we don’t even notice they are there. With the sun in your eyes, trees in your line of vision or if you are watching something else, you may not realise how close you are to OHPL.

Safe operation can be achieved by a combination of measures:

Worksite planning

- Ensure all overhead and underground power lines that cross through or near the worksite and access routes are clearly marked on the site map.
- Mark on the site map the maximum safe height for passing under OHPL.
- Ensure warning notices are prominently displayed inside the cab of all machines that may have to work in the vicinity of OHPL. The notice should give the maximum working height of the machine and the maximum height in the transport position.
- Organise operations within the worksite to minimise the need for mobile equipment to pass below or work close to OHPL.

Within the worksite

- Within the worksite, clearly identify the safe clearance distance for driving alongside OHPL by providing suitable barriers. In many cases, witches’ hats will form a physical barrier.
- Signage restricting any work taking place under or near OHPL should be in place.

Harvest operations

- You should not undertake any felling work (using a mechanical harvester) within two tree lengths of OHPL without consultation with the site manager.
- Only fell trees parallel to or away from OHPL.
- Assess and take account of the site and the ground conditions.
- Assess the weather conditions and ensure the wind direction does not affect control of the felling direction.
- Consult, plan and communicate felling and extraction routes.
- Do not operate a skidder or forwarder if any part of the machine or its load can come within one tree length of OHPL.

Access routes

- Where OHPL cross an access road to a worksite, prominently display warning signs at each side of the lines.
- Signage should also be displayed prohibiting any vehicles from parking under or near OHPL.
- Where there is no scheduled work or requirement for access under OHPL, physical barriers should be erected at a safe distance away from the OHPL to prevent close approach.
- When travelling to and from a worksite, machine attachments and loads must be kept below the maximum safe height.

What to do in an emergency

- If part of a vehicle or load is in contact with an OHPL, you should remain in the cab and inform the local Power Network company.
- Warn others to stay away.
- Try to drive clear. If this is not possible, and you need to leave the vehicle to escape fire, JUMP CLEAR – do not dismount by climbing down the steps.
- Never try to disentangle equipment until the Power Network company has confirmed the OHPL has been de-energised and made safe.

After any vehicle has been safely cleared of the power lines, it must be checked by a competent person to ensure it is working properly before returning to operational use.

Look up and live!

Need Help?

with your Contractor Management System

- Need assistance with accessing your contractor management system?
- Got an audit coming up?
- Purchased new equipment?
- Starting a new type of job?

The technical support team is ready to assist you with all of your questions and queries.

Please contact Erin on **1800 054 659**

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