

Burning sugarcane near transmission lines



This fact sheet provides information for sugarcane growers, harvesters and others who work with sugarcane. Stay safe. It's important to be aware of safety information when burning and harvesting sugarcane near high voltage electricity transmission lines.

Plan ahead to stay safe

Managing crop areas around transmission lines is the responsibility of the canegrower or landholder.

Plan ahead to stay safe when harvesting:

- Use mapping to know exactly where transmission lines are.
- Plan a corridor around the transmission line.
- Avoid planting cane in the corridor around transmission lines.
- If using cane fires, consider how the prevailing wind could increase the risk of smoke near transmission lines.
- Plan to harvest green cane around transmission lines before burning other cane.

About Powerlink

Powerlink is a Queensland Government Owned Corporation that owns, develops, operates and maintains the high voltage electricity transmission network in Queensland. Our network extends from north of Cairns to the New South Wales border.

We transport electricity generated at major power stations through our transmission grid to the electricity distribution networks owned by Energex, Ergon Energy and Essential Energy (in northern New South Wales). We also transport electricity to several large electricity consumers in Queensland and to New South Wales via the Queensland/NSW Interconnector transmission line.

Key safety points

Remember the following key points to stay safe when harvesting near transmission lines:

- 🔥 Don't burn cane within 25 metres of a transmission line.
- 🔥 Only harvest green cane within 25 metres of a transmission line.
- 🔥 Contact Powerlink 48 hours before burning cane near a transmission line – phone 1800 353 031 (24 hours a day, seven days a week).

Take care when burning cane before harvesting

Cane fires are managed but high intensity fires. They can be dangerous near electricity transmission lines.

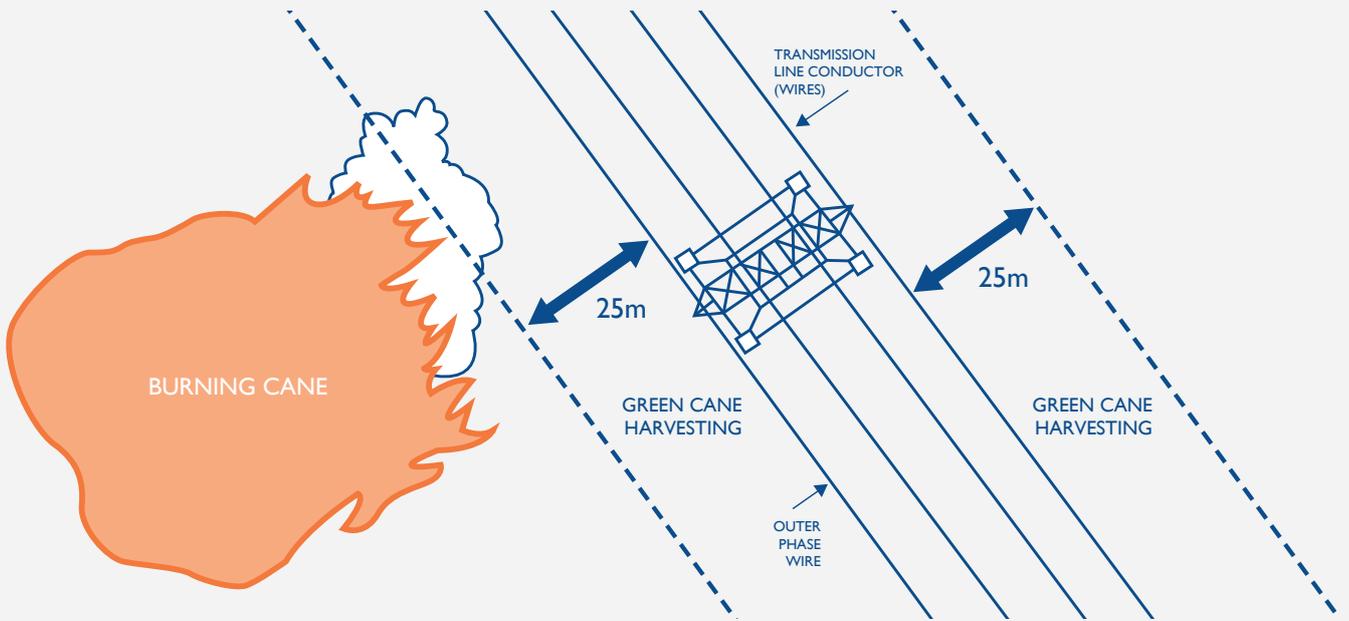
A fire burning under or close to a transmission line can create a flashover (an electrical arc). Just like a lightning strike, a flashover can be life threatening. It also has the potential to damage equipment and interrupt electricity supply.

A flashover occurs when electricity jumps across an air gap to create a conductive path between two objects, which sometimes reaches the ground. It makes a loud cracking sound like an explosion.

Cane fires create dense smoke and hot gases that increase the risk of a flashover between the ground and a transmission line.

If you must burn cane near transmission lines, follow this safety advice:

- Notify Powerlink on 1800 353 031 at least 48 hours before burning near or under a transmission line.
- Leave a minimum of 25 metres between the outer conductor of the transmission line to the edge of the flame or heavy smoke plume.
- Keep all people, equipment, vehicles and attachments at least 25 metres from the outer conductor of the powerline.
- Know the control measures to stay safe. You can find our fact sheet 'Fire and High Voltage Transmission Line Safety' and other helpful safety information at www.powerlink.com.au.



Know what to do if you bring down a powerline

Stay safe when operating harvesting equipment near transmission towers and lines. Contact Powerlink immediately if you collide with a tower or conductor, expose underground earth wires or notice any damage to the transmission line. This can be dangerous and potentially interrupt electricity supply.

- 1** **STAY in the tractor.**
Call 000 immediately.

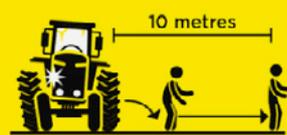

- 2** **If there's an immediate danger, like fire, and evacuation is ABSOLUTELY necessary,** access your escape route and check for fallen powerlines.


- 3** Exit the tractor by jumping - make sure to land with both feet together.


- 4** When jumping, **don't touch the tractor and the ground at the same time.**


- 5** Once you've landed with both feet together (be careful not to stumble or fall), jump or shuffle with your feet together away from the tractor.


- 6** Move in this way until you are at least 10 metres away from the tractor. **DO NOT go back.**



What to do if your tractor brings down powerlines



13 16 70



Queensland Government



1800 353 031



13 19 62

Emergency information

- Call 000 immediately in an emergency, or if a fire or electrical event threatens lives or property.
- If you see a fire burning underneath a transmission line, call Powerlink as soon as possible on 1800 353 031 (24 hours a day, seven days a week).

Contact Powerlink

For general enquiries: FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours)

In the case of an emergency:
FREECALL 1800 353 031

(24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Email: website.enquiries@powerlink.com.au

www.powerlink.com.au



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 Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.