



POWERLINK QUEENSLAND

Floods and transmission network safety

We encourage everyone to use the following information as a guide to help you stay safe before, during and after flood events.

About this brochure

Flooding can rapidly change ground and water levels, reducing the safe clearance distances between the ground or water surface and overhead transmission lines. Flooding can also damage transmission towers and other network infrastructure. This brochure aims to help you make safe choices around our transmission network before, during and after floods.

Our transmission network

Our electricity transmission network extends from Cairns to the New South Wales border. Our network transports high voltage electricity from energy generators to the distribution networks for delivery to homes and businesses.

A transmission line is a powerline capable of carrying high voltages to support movement of electricity over long distances. High voltage electricity can arc through the air, create dangerous ground voltages or energise nearby objects.

This is why maintaining safe clearance distances from the transmission network at all times is essential – particularly during flood events.

Our powerline safety framework

Planning is crucial to working safely around powerlines. Before you begin work, we encourage you to PLAN, LOOK and ACT. Simple actions can lead to safer outcomes. Learn more about our PLAN, LOOK, and ACT powerline safety framework at powerlink.com.au/community-safety.

Before a flood: Plan ahead

When there is an opportunity to plan ahead before a flood arrives, we encourage you to:

- identify transmission lines and towers on or near your property, or worksite, and plan safe access routes for people, vehicles and livestock
- use the Look Up and Live map available on the Before You Dig Australia website (byda.com.au) to locate transmission lines, identify the owner, and determine exclusion zones (Figure 1)
- postpone any non-essential work near transmission lines when weather conditions are deteriorating
- conduct a risk assessment and contact Powerlink on 1800 635 369 for safety advice before starting any work that could enter an exclusion zone or disturb the ground around the network. If transmission lines fall onto or across your boat, do not touch them or get out of the boat. Instead, call Triple Zero (000) right away.

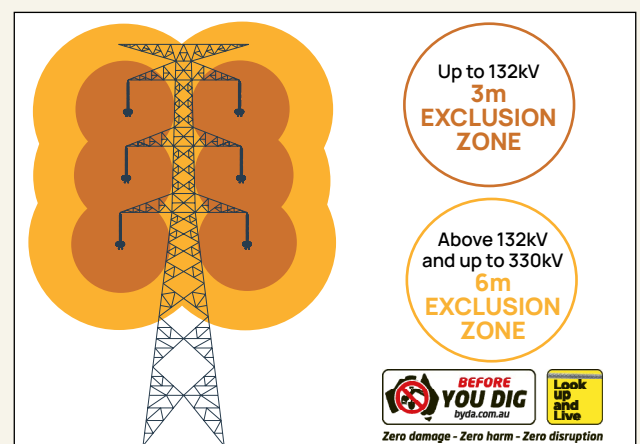


Figure 1: Graphical representation of exclusion zones for overhead transmission lines (image not to scale).

Powerlink acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands and waters of Queensland and in particular, the lands on which we operate. We pay our respect to their Ancestors, Elders and knowledge holders and recognise their deep history and ongoing connection to Country.



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SAFE FOR LIFE
Everyone. Everywhere. Everyday.

During a flood: Keep well clear

Floodwaters can reduce clearance between overhead transmission lines and the surface of the water or ground. Never assume you have enough height clearance for vehicles, machinery, equipment, boats or people.

- Look up, look down, look all around for transmission lines.
- Always treat all transmission lines as 'energised' with potential to cause serious harm unless an electrical authority tells you it is safe.
- Do not approach transmission lines, towers or associated equipment that appears damaged, leaning, partly submerged, sagging or on the ground.
- If a transmission line has contacted the ground or water, keep well clear and warn others to stay away.
- Keep away from vegetation, debris or fencing that is touching or close to transmission lines or towers as it may be energised.
- Do not attempt to touch or move fallen transmission lines or any objects in contact with them.
- Implement effective controls to prevent people, vehicles, machinery and equipment entering exclusion zones, and from contacting underground transmission lines.
- Follow your risk assessment and any safety advice provided by Powerlink.

Vehicles, machinery and equipment

Do not operate vehicles, machinery, or equipment under or near transmission lines if floodwaters have changed ground levels, or if your work could enter an exclusion zone or contact underground transmission lines.

Boats, watercraft and water activities

- Changes to water levels can reduce clearance distances to transmission lines. Be aware of tall items such as antennas, canopies, fishing rods, and masts, and keep well away from transmission lines.
- Do not take boats or watercraft across fallen transmission lines during flooding.
- Do not use an oar or any other object to lift or push fallen transmission lines out of the way. They may still be energised.
- If a transmission line contacts your boat, do not touch the line or get out of the boat. Instead, call Triple Zero (000).

After a flood: hazards can remain

After a flood, transmission lines and towers might be damaged and unsafe. Stay away from them until an electrical authority tells you it is safe. Report any network damage, exposed underground infrastructure, sagging or fallen transmission lines immediately and keep others away.

Do not start clean-up, earthworks or repairs near the transmission network until you have planned the work and implemented effective controls to prevent people, vehicles, machinery and equipment entering exclusion zones, and from contacting underground transmission lines.

In an emergency

In an emergency call Triple Zero (000) and also notify Powerlink on 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If a flood event has caused your vehicle or machinery to contact a transmission line **STAY-CALL-WAIT** (Figure 2).

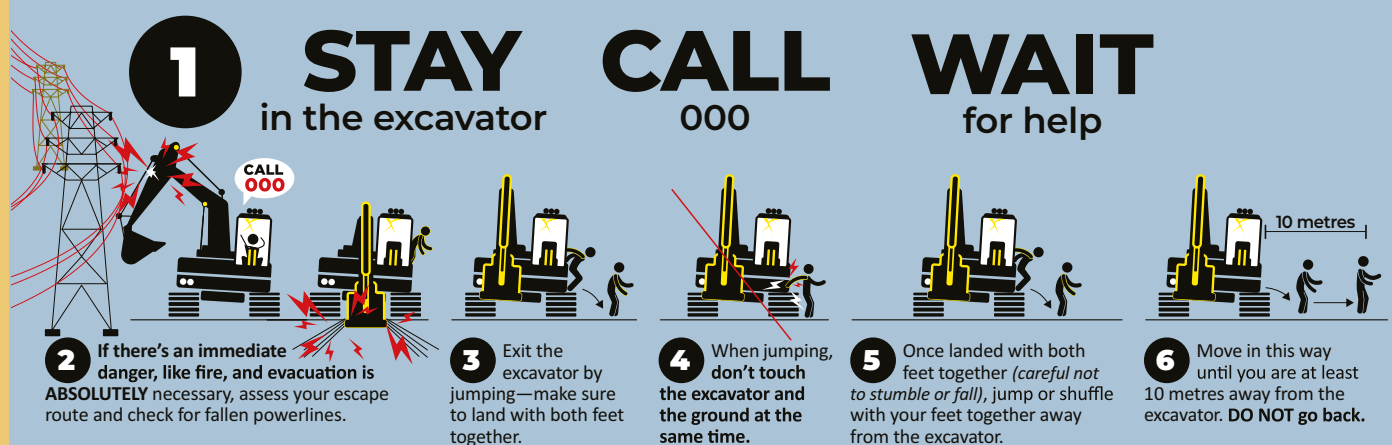


Figure 2: STAY CALL WAIT emergency guidance.

Further information

In an emergency FREECALL 1800 353 031 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

General enquiries FREECALL 1800 635 369 (during business hours) and ask for the Easement Maintenance team

Scan the QR code or visit powerlink.com.au/brochures to learn more.

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