



Keeping safe around transmission assets

Kiwifruit Growers

INFORMATION SHEET | JULY 2026



Transpower's national electricity grid is made up of towers, substations, fibre optic cables, and over 12,000 km of lines that run the length of New Zealand. Our network runs above ground, underground, and across private and rural land. Here's what you need to know to stay safe when working around our assets.

Key things to know

- You do not need to touch a line for harm to occur. Electricity can arc and nearby materials may become energised. This can result in electric shock, burns, internal injury, falls or serious harm.
- Wires, trellis, fences and machinery can carry electrical current.
- Structures or installations such as trellis systems, fencing or orchard infrastructure must allow for sufficient clear space above them underneath an overhead transmission line (over 4 metres for 110kV lines and over 6 metres for 220kV lines). If you are unsure what voltage a line is, you can call us on **0800 LANDOWNER**.
- To keep you and others working on your land safe, it is critical to know where our assets are, and to maintain safe practices when working around them.

How incidents, injury and damage can occur when working around our assets

- Structures or installations, such as trellis systems, fencing or other orchard infrastructure being positioned closer than intended near poles, towers or lines.
- Being unaware of transmission asset locations, especially underground.
- Machinery, irrigators, aircraft, trucks or long loads being too close or touching transmission lines.
- Vegetation, vines or land changes reducing safe clearances over time.
- Wires, netting or long materials interacting with lines.

Staying safe around our assets

- Identify all assets within the work area, above and below ground.
- Discuss ground level changes with Transpower.
- Plan orchard layouts early – permanent structures must be built well clear of assets (12m from towers and 8m from poles).
- Plan safe distances for trellis systems, poles, netting and irrigation.
- Use beforeUdig.co.nz to locate underground assets.

In the event of an emergency

- Call 111 and then **0800 8434743 (0800THEGRID)**.
- Transpower can de-energise the line and provide advice.
- If a transmission line or cable is struck, stay in the machine unless there is immediate danger such as fire.
- Turn off machinery and keep others away.
- If evacuation is required, jump clear keeping both feet together and shuffle or hop away.
- Never touch downed or damaged transmission lines.

Maintain safe distances

- Keep machinery, equipment, structures and people clear of overhead lines.
- Install physical stops, markers and suitable layouts.
- Regularly check equipment height and manage plan growth.
- If work is required closer to assets than the minimum distance you must contact Transpower for approval.