



Horticulture work around transmission lines

Horticulture can be hazardous, but working around transmission lines increases the danger.

Electrical Safe Distances are set out in New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice 34 (NZECP 34:2001).

The distance between any overhead conductor (wire) and any part of any mobile plant or load carried shall be **"AT LEAST 4.0 METRES"** unless the operator has received written consent from Transpower allowing a reduced distance.

It is important to note that equipment does not need to physically touch the line to cause a flashover.

Trees and vegetation

Trees also need to be at least 5 metres (4 metres clearance and 1 metre cut-back zone) from the closest part of the conductor.

Trees growing too close to power lines may cause:

- a fault which will affect the operation of the line
- injury or death to someone near the tree
- damage to land and property.

If trees touch conductors (wires), or electricity "jumps" the gap to a tree, then dangerous voltages may arise in the area around the tree, or on the tree itself. Trees in the power lines are a safety hazard, with the potential to cause injury or even death by electrocution if someone comes in contact with the tree. High voltage electricity flowing into trees can also cause trees to ignite. Trees and shrubs should be kept clear of the power lines at all times.

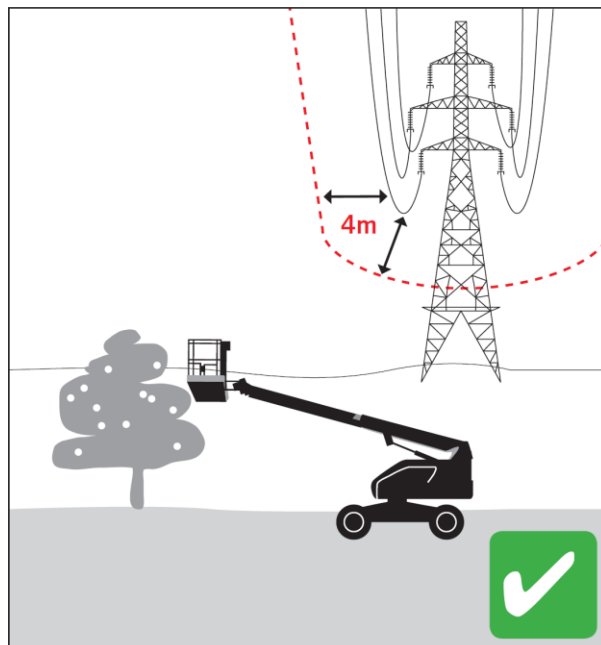
Transpower is legally required to maintain its lines to minimise any tree-related interruptions to the supply of electricity.

Working safely around transmission lines

Make sure you know where power lines are when moving vehicles with elevated platforms, eg grain augers, ladders, drills and dump truck beds.

When moving tall machinery, choose the route where the transmission lines are high enough to give at least a 4 metre clearance. Always have lifting equipment in a lowered position before moving it under lines.

Any part of any mobile plant or load being carried must be at least four metres from the conductors at all times. Remember conductor location can be affected by wind or temperature (it may not be in the same place or height all the time).





Training vines

Do not erect wire along the same path as overhead power lines, or strain wire where it could contact lines. A broken wire flicking upwards can come into contact with nearby lines.

If power lines are down

If power lines hit your vehicle while you are in it, stay still until help arrives. Never get out of your vehicle unless you have to. If in an extreme emergency you do have to get out, do so without touching metal and ground at the same time - jump as far as you can.

If you see lines down, call us immediately and make sure people and stock keep well away. Downed power lines are extremely dangerous.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call TRANSPower on 0508 LANDOWNER or your local Service Provider: