

# BULLER ELECTRICITY SAFETY ADVICE

For any emergency relating to safety on our network, call **03 788 8170** anytime  
 For more information on any of these items please visit [www.bullerelectricity.co.nz](http://www.bullerelectricity.co.nz)

## WORKING NEAR POWER LINES

### Useful information for farmers and contractors

Follow these rules to reduce the risks when working around power lines:

**Keep Your Distance-** when working close to overhead power lines it is important to maintain a minimum safe working distance of **4 metres**.

**Prevention-** is the best strategy. As far as possible you should either avoid working too close to overhead power lines or have them disconnected.

**Park Machinery or Trucks Away From Overhead Power Lines-** people have been seriously injured or killed clambering around on the upper level of trucks.

**Before Using Machinery-** plan a route that keeps you clear of power lines.

**Handling Pipes-** when loading or unloading pipes make sure you know what's above you.

**Fencing Wire-** fence wire can flick upwards and touch overhead power lines. If you can't avoid working near overhead lines then be on your guard.

**Safety Switches-** also known as RCD or Residual Current Devices, when properly installed they can help protect you or anyone working on your farm.

## TREES NEAR POWER LINES

Trees near lines often cause a loss of power and dangerous situations. Trees falling across power lines or growing close to lines can cause power outages. They can also cause fires and break lines, causing major safety hazards. Trees and shrubs should be kept well clear of power lines.

Trees in contact with power lines are a safety hazard, with the potential for causing injury or even death by electrocution if someone touches a tree made "live" by a power line.

### Cutting Trees Near Power Lines

Cutting and trimming trees in the vicinity of power lines is dangerous. Touching the live power line or a tree close to the line, can result in serious injury or even death by electrocution. You can contact Buller Electricity to either disconnect your power before starting work or Buller Electricity can refer you to its contracting division Electro Services Limited who employ specialised Arborists fully qualified and experienced in tree trimming around live power lines.

### Planting Trees Near Power Lines

Serious consideration should be given to the species and placement of trees on your property to ensure they do not interfere with the power lines now and in the future.



## TEMPORARY SAFETY DISCONNECTIONS

Repairs to roofing, spouting, painting, water-blasting and scaffolding can be dangerous if carried out close to overhead power lines. If you require a Temporary Safety Disconnection for this type of work contact your retailer or call us on 03 788 8170. You need to allow at least 24 hours' notice. This is normally a **free of charge** service provided by our contracting division Electro Services Limited.

## POWER CABLE LOCATIONS

If you are building a new fence along your boundary you could require a location service to identify if there are any underground services in this vicinity.

Customers will typically need a location service if they are digging trenches, laying a driveway or erecting a fence.

Buller Electricity encourages safety around power cables and provides an underground cable location service **free of charge within Road Reserve**.

To arrange a cable location, please contact our contracting division **Electro Services Limited on 03 788 8170**.

## WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A POWER OUTAGE

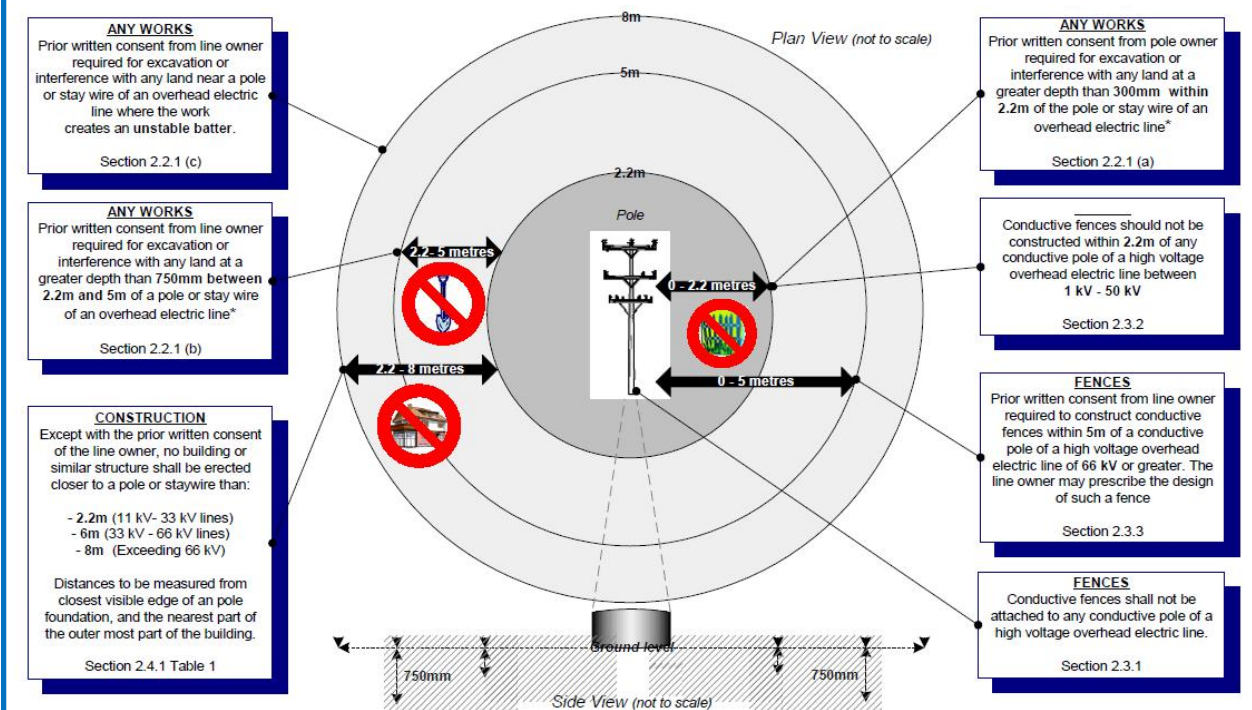
### Phone 03 788 8170 to report a fault

- Keep clear of any broken power lines
- Treat all power lines as being live at all times (power may be restored without warning)
- Disconnect sensitive appliances (e.g. Computer, Microwave or TV)
- Avoid the use of candles, use a torch
- Cook on a camp stove or BBQ

## WORKING NEAR NETWORKS

If you know you are going to work close to overhead power lines then you may require a Close Approach Permit. Please call us on 03 788 8170 to arrange a permit.

Follow the **4 metre rule**: All work activity near the power lines must be kept at least **4 metres** distance from overhead power lines. The diagram below summarises the minimum safe distance for excavations and construction near power poles or stay wires.



## BULLER ELECTRICITY CONTACT DETAILS

**After Hour Faults—Call your Energy Retailer**

**Enquiries—03 788 8170**

**[www.bullerelectricity.co.nz](http://www.bullerelectricity.co.nz)**



If you identify any hazard relating to our assets (overhead power lines, poles, distribution transformers, pillar boxes etc.)

please contact us on **03 788 8170**