

# Energy Safety

## Worker Safety When Cutting Trees



Department of Consumer  
and Employment Protection  
Government of Western Australia

# Worker Safety When Cutting Trees Near Power Lines

**Over the previous few years, a number of serious incidents have occurred while workers have been carrying out vegetation control work.**

**These incidents have resulted in:**

- the injury or death of workers;
- damage to overhead power lines; and
- disruption to electricity supply.



## **New requirements for working near live overhead power lines**

In December 1996, new requirements were introduced for all workers who are paid to carry out vegetation control work (cut, trim, prune or fell trees and vegetation) near live overhead power lines (refer to Regulation 316A of the *Electricity Act Regulations 1947*).

If any vegetation or worker or any tool, equipment or vehicle used by that worker is likely to come within the “danger zone” of live overhead power lines, those workers must:

- be properly trained; and
- comply with the electrical safety requirements of the *Code of Practice for Personnel Electrical Safety for Vegetation Control Work Near Live Power Lines* or an alternative code approved by the Director of Energy Safety.

**The “danger zone” is:**

- above any power line;
- closer than 3 metres to power lines of voltages up to 33,000 volts; and
- closer than 6 metres to power lines of voltages over 33,000 volts.

## **Trained workers**

Properly trained workers are workers who are trained:

- in electrical linework to the satisfaction of the Director of Energy Safety; or
- in vegetation control work by a person or training authority approved by the Director of Energy Safety.

## **Existing training providers**

Persons trained in electrical linework by Western Power are deemed to have been “trained in electrical linework” to the satisfaction of the Director of Energy Safety.

The Tree Guild of WA (Inc.) has been approved by the Director of Energy Safety to carry out training in vegetation control work.

**For further information contact:**

THE TREE GUILD of WA:  
Telephone (08) 9351 5804  
Facsimile (08) 9350 5147



### New training providers

Other training providers (including those from other States) will be approved provided they demonstrate that:

- the persons providing the training have knowledge and skills appropriate to the subject matter they are teaching;
- the training courses cover the range of skills (set out in section 5 of the code) that are appropriate to the type of candidates attending the course; and
- facilities appropriate to the content of the training course are provided.

For further information, contact the Principal Engineer Electricity Supply, Energy Safety, telephone (08) 9422 5200.

If you have any doubts, require further information or wish to obtain a copy of the *Code of Practice for Vegetation Control Work Near Live Power Lines*, please contact Energy Safety.



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### **Energy Safety**

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### **Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54**

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

### **Wageline 1300 65 52 66**

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays except Wednesday 9.00am-5.00pm

### **WorkSafe 9327 8777**

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

This booklet is available in alternative formats such as large type, computer disk and Braille. If you require the services of an interpreter, contact the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) on 131 450 and ask for connection to Labour Relations 1300 304 054 or WorkSafe 9327 8777.

The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection also has regional offices in Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

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