

## WHEN A POWERLINE FALLS, THE ELECTRICAL DANGERS RISE

Electrical infrastructure can be damaged by various elements – strong winds, lightning, vandalism, falling trees, animals, road accidents and more. Without the right test equipment there is no way of knowing if fallen power lines are still ‘alive’ with electricity.

To stay on the safe side you should always treat power lines as ‘alive’ and keep 8 metres away from them. Be aware too of any trees, branches or other debris as they can also become ‘alive’ if they contact the damaged power lines.

### Minimise the risk

Endeavour Energy employs the services of trained horticulturalists, arborists and tree trimmers to manage the vegetation in and around the electricity network located on public property.

You can reduce the risk of damage on your property. Plant only grass or shrubs that will not exceed 3.5 metres directly under power lines.

### Did you know?

In times of bushfire evacuation, turning off the main power switch at the meter box before evacuating your home can reduce the chance of damage to your electrical equipment and the risk of electrical wires short-circuiting or sparking.

It is especially important during the bushfire season to make your property bushfire safe. Look out for any trees near or touching power lines, combustible material or garden waste below power lines, and keep your gutters free of any leaves and twigs.



### Storm precautions

Lightning can also damage electrical equipment. Endeavour Energy has systems in place to manage any network disruptions caused by lightning. To improve safety at home when lightning is about, you should stay indoors. It's also a good idea to turn off and unplug any unnecessary electrical appliances, and to keep them clear of potential flood areas.

### Electricity can jump

You don't have to be touching power lines to get an electric shock or be electrocuted, as electricity can ‘jump’, also known as arcing. That's why you should always stay well clear of damaged power lines and call Endeavour Energy immediately on **131 003**.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Endeavour Energy is responsible for maintaining electrical infrastructure and is committed to providing a safe and reliable electricity supply. However, there are a few simple things you can also do to help.

### Five things to remember

- 01** Stay 8 metres clear of damaged power lines or other electrical infrastructure and always treat them as ‘alive’.
- 02** During the bushfire season make sure your property is bushfire safe – trim trees away from power lines, remove combustible material from beneath power lines, and keep gutters clear of twigs and leaves.
- 03** Always engage a qualified professional for tree trimming near power lines.
- 04** During a lightning storm be sure to stay indoors, and turn off and unplug any unnecessary appliances.
- 05** If you see damaged power lines, or damage to other electrical infrastructure call Endeavour Energy immediately on **131 003** or contact emergency services on **000**.

## LIVING SAFELY WITH ELECTRICITY

Strong winds, lightning, storms and even bushfires are part of life. But at times, natural events like these can damage power lines and other electrical infrastructure, and disrupt the supply of electricity.

Endeavour Energy is committed to providing a safe and reliable electricity supply. We have emergency response crews ready 24 hours a day to repair network damage and make the system safe.

This brochure provides advice on staying safe around damaged electrical infrastructure, and highlights some of the things we're doing to prevent damage, plus a few things you can do to help.



**ALIVE AND  
DANGEROUS**

### SAFETY EXCELLENCE

**IN EMERGENCIES  
CALL 131 003**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

If you have any questions about what you should do to stay safe around damaged power lines and other electrical infrastructure please call 131 081 or visit us at [www.endeavourenergy.com.au](http://www.endeavourenergy.com.au)

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Call 131 003 and put safety first.  
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