

Powerlines in Flood Environments

During the operational response in a flood event, the risks of submerged and hidden hazards are evident with the rising and receding riverine systems, during which the powerlines are impacted, members are exposed to increased risk from powerlines

Whilst working in and around floodwaters in the vicinity of energised electric lines, you can be exposed to safety risk of an electric shock or other injury including death which can be caused directly or indirectly by electricity.

Operators and their crew utilising vessels on flood waters should maintain situational awareness with regards to power lines that may be down, under the water or exposed. Power lines will be closer to you than normal due to the heightened water levels where you are likely operating across roadways that are flooded.



Energy and Utility Services **strongly advise** not to assume electrical lines are de-energised in flooded areas.

Control Measures:

- It is important for members to be continually assessing the risk in flooded environments by performing [dynamic \(Take 5\) risk assessments](#)
- Treat ALL power lines as live unless instructed by an employee of the relevant electricity network operator (Essential Energy, Endeavour Energy, AusGrid).
- Take additional care in vessels on flood waters as you will be closer to power lines than normal. These are likely to still be live.
- Stay 8 metres away from damaged power lines.
- Members should maintain their own safety



If you are impacted by a near miss or incident surrounding powerlines, report it as soon as immediately. Report all injuries, hazards and near-hits on **1800 737 647**