

Tipping safely near overhead powerlines



Creating a safer state
with electricity and gas

When machinery comes too close to powerlines, the results can be fatal.

Be aware of the dangers of overhead powerlines. Always look up and live.

Did you know?

- » All powerlines are dangerous, including covered and low voltage powerlines.
- » All powerlines have the potential to cause death or serious injury.
- » Tipper trucks hit powerlines every week in Victoria causing property damage, serious injury and sometimes death.
- » You don't have to make contact with a powerline for it to be fatal. Electricity can jump if trucks or trailers get too close to powerlines.
- » Truck drivers are responsible for the safety of themselves and others during any truck movement and tipping operations.
- » Powerlines can be more difficult to see at dawn and dusk.
- » During windy or hot conditions powerlines can sag close to the ground, or sway by 3 metres or more.

Tipping safely

- » **Make sure that once the Power Take Off (PTO) is engaged, ALL parts of the tipper are more than 6.4 metres from powerlines at ALL times. This includes both raising and lowering the Tipper body.**
 - › Staying at least 6.4m from powerlines means that you are outside the No Go Zone area.
 - › If you can't stay 6.4m away from powerlines, you must have additional safety controls in place (see the controls section of this brochure for more information)
- » Understand the capabilities and limitations of your truck when tipping near powerlines.
- » Never tip under powerlines. If powerlines are near the drop zone, put safety controls in place e.g.:
 - › Place barriers and visual warning devices to help maintain clearance from powerlines
 - › Use an electrical spotter or safety observers
 - › Consider installing voltage proximity detectors on any raiseable parts of trucks
- » Follow the T-I-P-P-E-R safety process shown on the next page.

WARNING: If a tipper or other machinery makes contact with a powerline, the ground surrounding the truck will become energised with electricity that can be fatal to anyone who touches the truck or is even standing nearby.

For safe tipping, just remember T-I-P-P-E-R:

T

Travel: to site with a safe delivery plan

- » Contact the property owner or site manager before arriving at site
- » Know where the drop point is located
- » Ask them if there are any hazards near the drop point

I

Identify: hazards upon arrival at site

- » As you approach the drop point, look out for any hazards including overhead powerlines
- » Before you start tipping, make it a habit to ALWAYS stop the truck, exit the cab, walk around the truck and check for any overhead powerlines or other hazards

P

Plan: the drop to confirm safe clearances away from any overhead powerlines

- » Plan for each part of the drop:
 - › Initial drop lift
 - › Any movement during drop e.g. run off
 - › Lowering of tray
- » Use technology like Google Maps and site manager's or land owner's advice to identify a safe drop location before arriving at site
- » Stay as far away from powerlines as possible. Don't come closer than 6.4m while tipping (unless you have additional safety controls in place)

P

Protect: with controls and barriers

- » If you have to drop near overhead powerlines or other hazards, use barriers like traffic cones to clearly mark in the location of any hazard
- » Seek the assistance of a person to help guide and maintain safe working clearances from powerlines and other hazards

E

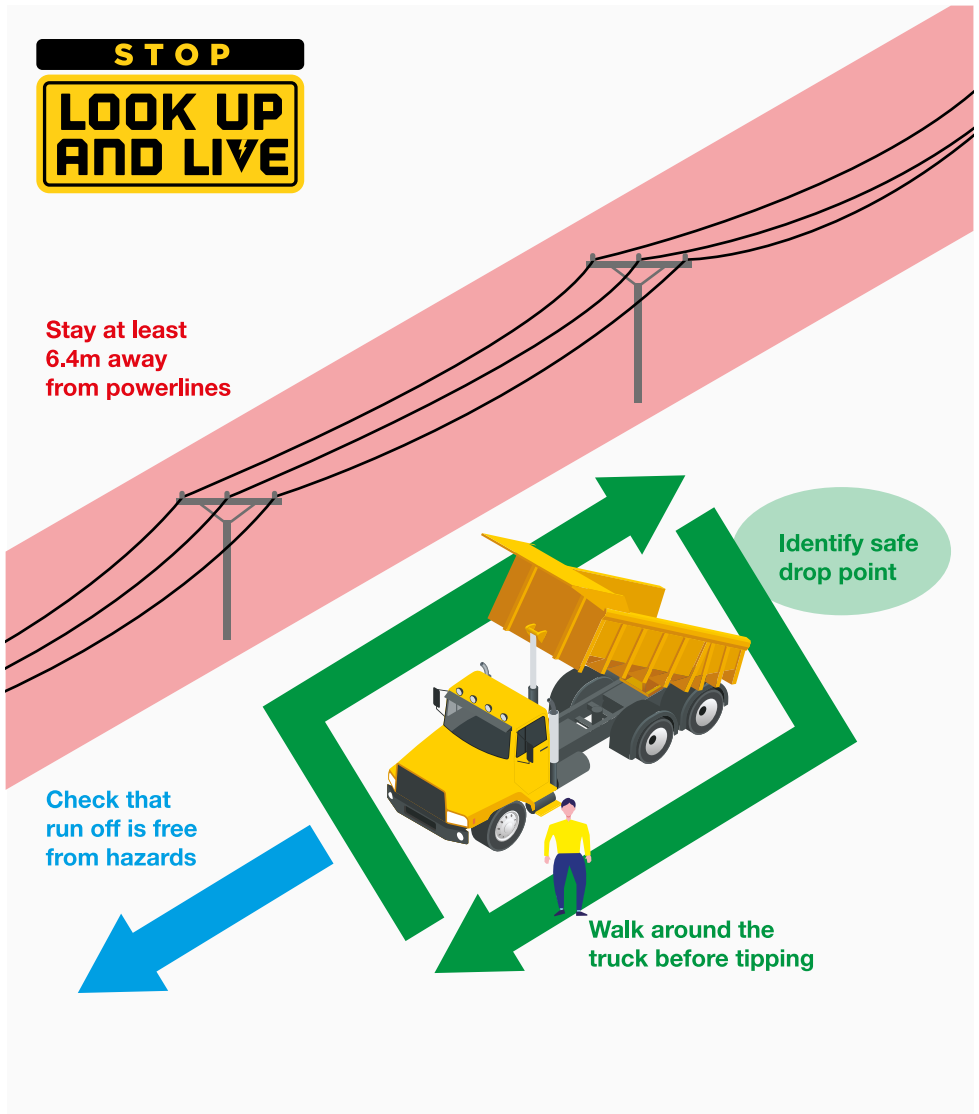
Emergency: minimise the consequence

- » Have an emergency plan in place and know what to do in emergencies
- » If you make contact with a powerline, stay in the cab, call 000, then contact the power company
- » If anyone is in danger and must exit the cabin, follow the emergency procedure (see *What to do if you hit an overhead powerline* on page 6)

R

Responsibility: we all have a responsibility to keep ourselves and others safe from the danger of powerlines

- » Understand the dangers of powerlines and work safely at all times



Pro tip

Rather than just checking what is behind or in front of you while tipping, always check what is above you. Make it a habit before any tip to get out of the cab and walk around the truck to check drop zone, run off area, AND overhead powerlines. Remember to look up and live.

Safety controls to help you tip safely near overhead powerlines

Know and understand the No Go Zone rules:

- » If you cannot avoid tipping near powerlines and cannot maintain 6.4m clearance at all times while tipping, then you need to know and follow the No Go Zone rules
- » You should use an electrical spotter in any situation that your truck or trailer will be within 6.4m of overhead powerlines while tipping
- » You should also seek advice from the power company who owns the powerlines in that area to arrange a No Go Zone inspection and, if required, get a Permit to Work

More information is available at:
[Using powered mobile plant near overhead assets – Guidebook.](#)

[ESV website.](#)

When tipping alone, you must have controls in place to make sure you don't get too close to powerlines. Implement the following safety controls where possible and appropriate.

- » Set up and mark out a site plan showing drop zones, traversing routes and other areas that are safely away from powerlines
- » For relevant sites, before delivery, contact the site supervisor or property owner to make sure you are aware of and effectively manage any hazards on site
- » Use flagging, install barriers and mark hazards to ensure you maintain 6.4m clearance to powerlines
- » Use reversing cameras or bin cameras to confirm location and clearances
- » Install voltage proximity warning detectors to the highest reaching point on your truck



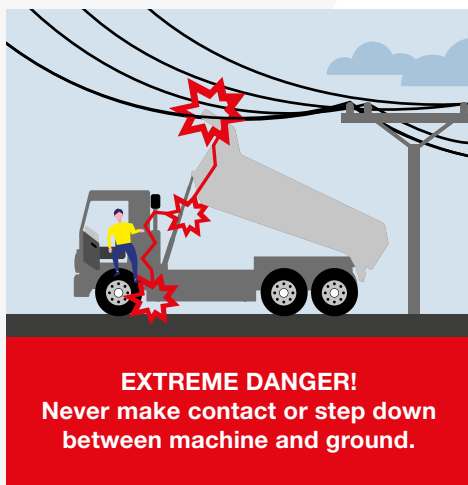
Pro tip

Attach ESV's NGZ stickers on the dashboard and next to the tipping controls of tippers as a reminder of the No Go Zones.

Place your free order at esv.vic.gov.au/merchandise

What to do if you hit an overhead powerline

- » Call 000 if anyone is injured or if there is an immediate risk
- » Call the power company that owns the powerlines at your location
- » Instruct anyone nearby to stay at least 10m clear from the incident area
- » If possible, try to lower trailers or drive the tipper to break contact with the powerline
- » If safe to do so, stay in your vehicle. If it is not safe e.g. in case of fire, jump clear from the vehicle, keeping legs and feet close together and landing both feet on the ground at the same time. Then shuffle with both feet staying close together to a distance more than 10m away from the vehicle. **NEVER touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time**
- » Once clear, do not return to the machinery or approach the powerline
- » Always assume that any powerline is live, even if it is broken and on the ground



CHECKLISTS: Before you start tipping

PLANNING before the job

Have you...

Yes

Read and understood the No Go Zone rules?

Placed stickers or other reminders of the No Go Zones near tipper controls?

Investigated using proximity warning devices?

Checked and updated your company SWMS to include electrical safety hazards and controls?

Considered the equipment and suitability for site drop off.
Is the most appropriate equipment being used to minimize hazards?

TIPPING

Have you...

Yes

Made contact with the property owner to find drop areas and hazards?

When arriving at the drop off area, stopped your truck, got out of the cab, walked around the truck to check for overhead powerlines or other hazards?

Checked the run off area is also free of powerlines?

If powerlines are nearby, put up signs or barriers or have someone help out?

Confirmed that you will keep 6.4m clear of overhead powerlines at all times while tipping?
Or if closer than 6.4m, do you have additional safety controls in place?

Don't proceed with the drop off if it is unsafe to do so. Reschedule and re-plan.

Once you check YES to every requirement of the PLANNING checklist and TIPPING checklist above, you are ready to start tipping safely.

**Further information and safety merchandise
including stickers and brochures are available at:
esv.vic.gov.au/lookupandlive**

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