

Northpower

Customerline

“Keeping customers informed”

Summer Safety

Keep clear of downed power lines

At any time, and for many reasons, electric power wires can come within reach of people. Sometimes wires come down during storms, or because of a vehicle accident. Similarly, as trees grow, they can enable wires to come within easy reach of anyone climbing the tree.

In the case of trees, or other items touching live wires, a person touching the tree (or other item) can get an electric shock without actually touching the wire itself.

Electrical safety can easily be ignored, but everyone needs to know that they should never go near wires without being certain that it is safe to do so. Unless it is actually proven to be safe by an electrically competent person, the wire must be treated as live at all times.

Anyone finding power wires down should contact Northpower's fault service on (09) 430 1800 immediately and make sure no-one else goes near them.

Watch out overhead

If you are handling any tall object near power lines, e.g. ladders, aerials, scaffolding, boat masts, kites, fishing rods and farm machinery, keep an eye on what is above you - don't let it come in contact with power lines. You should keep yourself and any objects you are handling, at least four metres away from overhead power lines.

Check before you dig

Watch out for what's below - make sure you check for the presence of any underground gas, power or water services before you dig.

Think safety

Consult with Northpower before carrying out any work close to lines, including work from a position on your roof, ladder or scaffold. Plan your work and arrange to have the power disconnected, if necessary.

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant trees well away from power lines and keep branches trimmed before they get too close. Before installing a clothesline, TV antenna or other high structure, check for clearance of power lines.

Electrical safety outdoors

If you are operating any electrical equipment outdoors, always use a Residual Current Device (RCD) or an isolating transformer.

Safety when boating

Before boating, know the height of your aerials and masts above land when towing and above water when sailing. Check any land routes, launching and sailing areas for crossing wires or signs about these. Keep boat movement on shore with your masts or aerials up to a minimum. Take action to avoid high parts of your boat intruding into an unsafe distance from overhead wires, and always heed the information on signs where these are displayed. Remember, high voltage electricity can jump to your mast or aerial if they get near enough to a wire, and the power can then burn or kill you or those nearby.

**All power and hot water faults
call**

Northpower 4301800