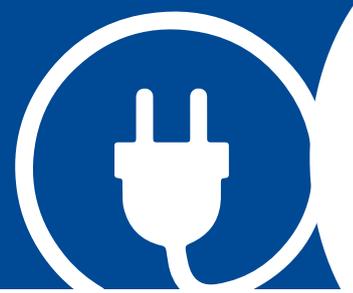




Safety tips that save lives



Safety tips for farms

Eskom cares about your safety

Is electrical safety an issue in the farming sector?



People tend to think that people only hurt themselves by using electricity unsafely in their homes. However, there are quite a few electrical safety issues on farms and Eskom needs to make farmers and their workers aware of these.

Have there been any incidents on farms recently?



There have been two incidents in the Northern Cape where a farmer and a worker tried to cut down branches close to powerlines, and both were killed when the branches made contact with the lines and they were electrocuted. Cutting down branches near powerlines is very dangerous and should never be attempted by members of the public.

What should they have done?



Eskom does patrol all lines on a regular basis but it would be most helpful if farmers and their workers could also check for tree branches growing too close to a powerline. If you encounter a tree branch growing too close to a power line, please contact Eskom immediately and we will send out a team to remove the branches.

Here are some safety tips for people living and working on farms



1. Look up, look out! Identify all powerlines on the farm – underground and overhead powerlines. Make sure that the workers know where they all are, especially the underground power cables if there are any.
2. Make sure that people and equipment stay at least three metres away from any powerline to prevent an incident. Electricity can reach you or your equipment if you're too close to a powerline.
3. Look out for downed or damaged powerlines. If you see one, stay at least 10 metres or 33 feet away. Report the fallen powerline to Eskom or your municipality immediately.
4. Beware of the height of your equipment. Weather conditions can impact powerlines causing them to drop to a lower level
5. If you're involved in a collision with a powerline, stay in the vehicle, call the emergency number, your municipality or Eskom on 08600 37 566, and make sure everyone else on the site, including emergency first responders, stay at least 10 metres back until the power has been shut off.
6. Work gloves and rubber boots offer no protection against contact with a power cable. The best protection is proper gloves that electricians use.
7. The safest way to move a ladder, pole, pipe or rod from one location to another is to have two people carrying it. Carry these horizontally or flat to avoid contact with overhead wires.
8. Make sure that all family members and farm workers know where and how to disconnect power in case of an electrical emergency.
9. Make sure that your farm's entire electrical system is properly grounded and conduct regular visual inspections of electrical boxes, wiring and extension cords to identify any damage and ensure that extension cords are only used as a temporary measure and do not run across floors permanently.
10. Ensure the wiring in your barns and outbuildings meet the local Electrical Safety Code by having a qualified electrician check the system and reviewing the wiring when a new installation is made.