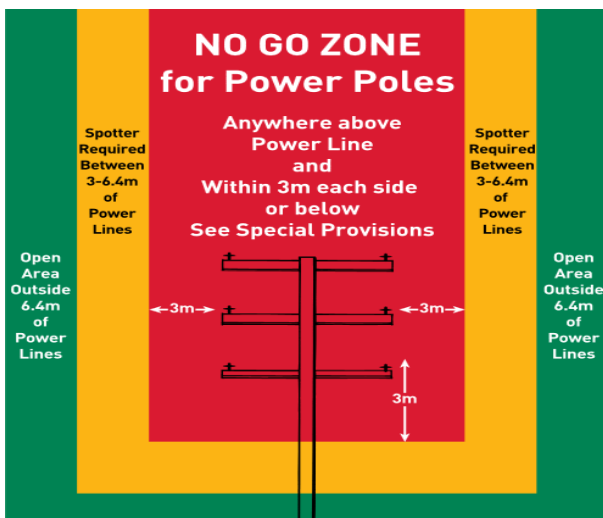


Greetings all. At the CICA National conference this year, we were privileged to hear from electrical safety expert Glen Cook. Cranes and live powerlines are a dangerous mix, so following on from the last bulletin about pick and Carry crane safety, I thought it fitting to discuss this topic as a large proportion of crane related electrical incidents involve pick and carry cranes. These cranes have an extra element of danger because raising and extending the boom is only part of the risk. They travel and move over uneven ground causing the boom to move in all directions relative to the electrical hazards.

Let's start with the law in Victoria, the 'No-go' zone is 3m for Power Poles and 8m for towers. Spotters are required from 3-6.4 meters from poles and 8-10m from towers. See link below for the full brochure.



http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/Portals/0/about%20esv/files/brochures/ESV_4ppA5_LUALBrochure.WEB.pdf

Year-to-date in Victoria, we have had 3 reported electrical incidents involving cranes. (And possibly many unreported) Dogman and riggers on the ground near the load are most at risk as the electricity passes from the electrical asset, through the boom, rope, and load. When SWMS are completed, electrical hazards should be identified which prompts the requirement for a spotter. The dogman is not a spotter as his job is to watch the

load. The spotter's sole role is specifically to observe the crane and load's proximity to the powerline no-go zone. **All serious incidents of this nature involving pick and carry cranes lacked a dedicated spotter present.** Let that sink in.

If you do contact a power line or live electrical asset, the best thing for a crane **operator** to do is outlined below.

1. If safe to do so, remove the contact to the electrical source (i.e. boom down /reverse direction) if the controls are still active.
2. Stay in the cabin (unless the crane is on fire). The electricity will pass around the driver into the ground. Call the relevant emergency number and follow instructions.
3. If you are in imminent danger and do need to exit the crane cabin, jump well clear of the cabin and land feet together.
4. Either shuffle without separating your feet or jump (feet together) clear until you are 10 meters away from the crane. The ground can be charged within a radius of the crane.
5. Do not assist anyone injured near the load or powerlines as they may still be in contact with high voltage. Also remember that electricity jumps from object to object. You don't have to touch someone or something 'live' to get electrocuted.
6. Call emergency number if you have not done so already.

The take away points are, avoid working in proximity to electrical assets if possible and arrange to have power cut if feasible. Otherwise conduct a thorough site inspection, risk assessment and lift plan then implement all necessary risk mitigations including, but not limited to, **spotters**. Check out www.esv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 158 for general advice. Or refer to this video. <https://youtu.be/gL1PrV9hPxY>

For your own state laws and information use this link: <http://cica.com.au/resources/overhead-powerline-regulations>. CICA has also produced a safety video on using cranes near powerlines.

Look up and Live, www.cica.com.au