



Advisory – Look Up, Look Out

01/08/2018

Powerlines can pose a safety risk for recreational and general aviation pilots involved in low level flying.

Attention all pilots and flight crew.

Nationally, contacts with powerlines in the aviation industry have risen in the last twelve months.

Overhead powerlines criss-cross our vast state and are a safe way to transfer the electricity we need to power businesses and homes. Ensure you know the location of powerlines in or around the area before you fly.

A recent incident involving a crop-dusting aircraft in Ross coming into contact with high voltage conductors highlights the importance of pre-flight checks.

TasNetworks encourage you to always make time in your pre-flight briefing to check the location of powerlines and other infrastructure along your flight path.

It's also important to:

- Discuss powerline locations with property owners
- Remember that poles, crossarms and stay wires may help in identifying the presence of overhead wires
- Cross over powerlines at poles or structures rather than mid-span where possible
- Look out for indicators of possible damage to the network infrastructure such as reduced powerline height, uneven cables, excessive sag, or slack stays and please report damaged powerlines immediately on 13 2004
- Accidents can happen when you least expect it so please share this important information with your pilots and crew as it could save their lives

If contact with powerlines occurs:

- Immediately cut off fuel supply - the danger of electrical accidents is complicated by the presence of fuel, and consequent danger of fire
- Do not touch overhead or fallen powerlines or anything in contact with them

- Assume the wires are live, even if they are not sparking
- Get the power turned off. Call triple zero (000) immediately and ask the first emergency authority to report powerlines down and a life-threatening situation
- If you are in a grounded aircraft or vehicle, and it is safe to do so, stay inside the cabin. Do not leave the cabin until the power is switched off and you have been given the all clear by an authorised TasNetworks employee
- Stay ten metres away from fallen powerlines or anything in contact with the wire. Advise bystanders to do the same. The current may travel a significant distance through the ground and even further along metal fences

If immediate evacuation is required:

- Jump well clear ensuring you don't touch the aircraft or vehicle and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together, and then hop or shuffle away with your feet together until you are at least ten metres clear of the aircraft, vehicle, powerlines or anything else in contact with the network
- Do not attempt to rescue, or allow others to approach an aircraft or vehicle that is in contact with the electrical

Please stay safe and always remember to look up, look out.

Powerline markers are available to help identify overhead powerlines but must be fitted by TasNetworks.

Contact us for advice or to report damaged powerlines on 13 2004