

MEDIA RELEASE



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Look Up Look Out

TasNetworks and agricultural safety group PASS are reminding farmers and agricultural workers to be aware of the dangers posed by overhead powerlines.

TasNetworks has partnered with Proactive Agricultural Safety and Support (PASS) to launch the Look Up, Look Out campaign.

TasNetworks CEO Lance Balcombe said the safety of our people and customers is TasNetworks' number one priority.

"The Look Up, Look Out awareness campaign seeks to educate customers about the dangers of overhead powerlines and precautions they can take to avoid serious injury or even death when they go about their day to day activities," Mr Balcombe said.

"Awareness of the dangers of overhead powerlines is growing but every year we still have several near misses."

PASS was formed in 2007 to provide information to farmers and to stimulate safe practices on Tasmanian farms.

"Farmers, contractors and their service providers are highly skilled professionals and a scarce commodity," PASS chair Anne Taylor said.

"We can't afford to lose any of them to foreseeable or preventable accidents.

"Between the year 2002 and 2007 there were four fatalities on farms in Northern Tasmania involving overhead powerlines – this was four too many."

For regular outages updates visit www.tasnetworks.com.au or follow us on Twitter @TasNetworks

Customers are asked to report outages 24/7 to 132004 and direct general enquiries to 1300 137 008

Our customers and members of the public are urged to report unsafe practices, fallen powerlines or any other dangerous situations, such as irrigation near powerlines, to TasNetworks' 24-hour emergency Fault Centre number, 13 2004.

"Look Up, Look Out targets customers who own and operate irrigation equipment, operate heavy equipment such as excavators and all people in the farming community," Mr Balcombe said.

"But everyone in the Tasmanian public can be affected, whether they're fishing, flying a kite or moving tall objects like ladders."

The Look Up, Look Out campaign began this week and will run through to February 2015.

Look Up, Look Out checklist:

- Objects don't even need to touch power lines to cause a shock or fatality.
- When you're working, driving or doing anything close to power lines – stop, look up and look out.
- It's everyone's responsibility to be safe around electricity.
- Irrigation pipes, plant or machinery should NEVER be stored under power lines.
- It is absolutely essential that people and equipment are kept at least three metres away from any overhead powerline, to remove the extremely real risk of electrocution and electric shock, power interruptions and also prevent bushfires caused by fallen powerlines.
- Never approach fallen powerlines.
- In an emergency situation where someone or something does come into contact with power lines, customers should first call 000 then TasNetworks on 132004.

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