

Maxima - WHS Newsletter - Autumn, 2017

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March, 2017

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Working around powerlines increases the danger.

It is important to note that equipment does not need to physically touch the line to cause a flashover. Electricity can flash over a gap, a person or piece of machinery can be some distance from a powerline and still be in danger. In addition, aerial lines swing in wind and sag due to heat. This movement must be allowed for in any clearance distance.

Safe clearance distances for machinery

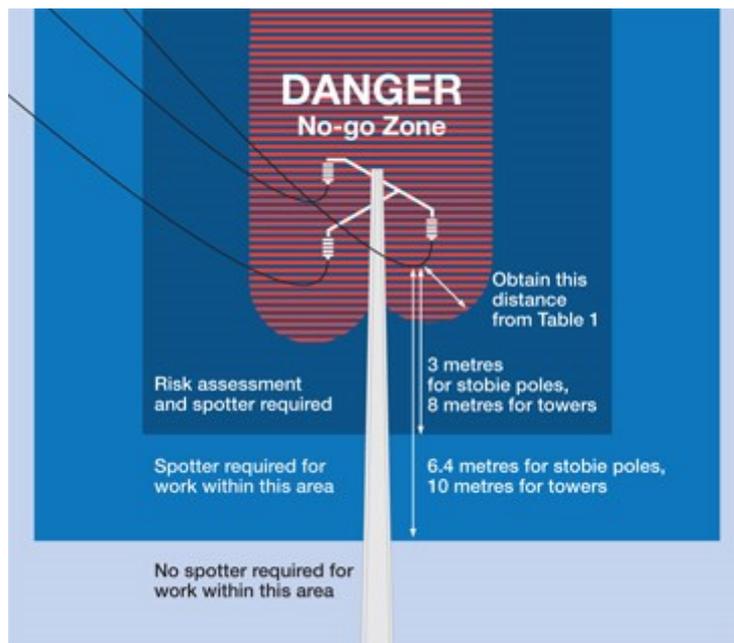
The minimum safe distances for operating cranes, machinery, vehicles or vessels with elevating components near powerlines are set out in the *Electricity (General)*

Regulations 2012. To work to the prescribed distances of the Regulations, you must also be able to show that you have allowed for any likely movement (wind effects, mechanical/hydraulic, swinging of crane loads) of both the powerline and the machinery, including operator error. The clearance distances prescribed by the Regulations are absolute clearances that cannot be breached at any time. Any breach of the prescribed clearances could put you and others in immediate danger of electric shock.

Minimum safe clearance with risk assessment

In order to operate machinery with an elevating component such as cranes, elevating work platforms and earthmoving equipment such as excavators, to the minimum clearances prescribed by the Regulations:

- (a) The voltage must be identified; and
- (b) A spotter (competent person who is suitably qualified by experience, training, or both with the sole duty of observing and warning against unsafe approach of the crane, its lifting attachments or its load to powerlines) carries out spotting duties at all times; and
- (c) A documented risk assessment is carried out before any work commences, in consultation with all relevant parties involved in the work; and
- (d) The electricity network operator is notified before commencing work; and
- (e) Any conditions specified by the electricity network operator.



Flu time

With a change of seasons almost upon us and the flu season fast approaching, it's that time of year to start thinking about having the flu vaccination.

What is influenza (flu) and how is it transmitted?

Influenza is a viral infection, caused by influenza virus types A, B or C. The virus is transmitted by virus-containing aerosols produced by coughing, sneezing or by direct

contact with respiratory secretions.

Can you get influenza from a flu vaccine?

Influenza vaccines will not give you the flu, as the vaccines available in Australia do not contain 'live' virus. After vaccination, the person will develop antibody levels that are likely to protect them against the strains of virus represented in the vaccine.

Why do I need to get vaccinated against the flu every year?

There are two main reasons for getting a yearly flu vaccine:

Flu viruses are frequently changing, and vaccines may be updated from one season to the next to protect against the most recent and common circulating strains.

A person's immune protection from the influenza vaccination declines over time and annual vaccination is recommended.

What's the difference between Trivalent and Quadrivalent vaccines?

Trivalent vaccines cover you against THREE strains of the flu.

Quadrivalent vaccines cover you against FOUR strains of the flu.

How to prevent the spread of the common cold or flu!

- Get vaccinated
- Wash your hands regularly with warm soapy water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and ensure you wash your hands or use a hygiene sanitiser afterward.
- Stay at home when you are sick, avoid close contact with others.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as germs are often spread when a person touches a surface or object that is contaminated by others.
- Ensure a high level of hygiene at all times, this includes in the workplace and at home, clean and disinfect surfaces or object that are common to others.

For more information regarding when the vaccine will be available, or which one would be best for you, check with your GP or follow the link to the Australian Government – Department of Health web site <http://immunise.health.gov.au/>



**GET THE FLU SHOT
BEFORE THE FLU GETS YOU**
Flu shot available now

Maxima's new home



We have moved into our new Corporate Head Office at 180 Port Road Hindmarsh.

Here you will find:

- Corporate Services
- Trainees, Apprenticeship placement
- Labour Hire placement
- Training Services

So the next time you need to visit us come and see our new office.

WHS Team

There has been a new addition to the WHS team. We are very excited to announce the arrival of **Steve Hutchison**.

Steve is a new WHS Consultant & Return to Work Coordinator; he will predominately work with Tempskill candidates and clients.

Steve likes Pina Coladas and getting caught in the rain...but seriously if you have any safety issues or have an incident at work Steve will be there to help and support your safe return to work.





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Visit maxima.com.au

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