

17 June 2022

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe.

Excavator contacts power line

An excavator was tramming along a haul road when the boom of the excavator contacted an energised 11kVA overhead powerline.

The operator noticed an electrical arc above the cab and reversed away from the powerline.

One phase of the powerline was severed and dropped to the ground in a couple of locations causing a small grass fire.

The fire was extinguished and power was interrupted to the processing plant for a very short time.

The operator was uninjured.

[MinEx data](#) on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 4 years to Dec 2021, shows 5% (233) of all incidents result from pressure release, with 78 incidents resulting from release of electricity.



You need to ensure that:

1. All overhead powerlines and poles, where they cross roads, are clearly sign posted and meet minimum height requirements.
2. All workers are trained and competent in procedures for working in the vicinity of power lines.
3. Overhead powerlines are clearly visible to mobile plant operators in all weather conditions.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.