

Friday, 19 June

**POWERCOR AND ESV RELEASE SAFETY PLEA
“LOOK UP, LOOK DOWN – AND LIVE”**

Local electricity distributor, Powercor, is working with the State’s electricity safety regulator, Energy Safe Victoria, to help prevent serious injuries and deaths resulting from machinery and heavy vehicles coming into contact with power assets.

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) in partnership with Powercor has released a free DVD, ‘*Look up Look Down – and Live*’, highlighting safety procedures to follow when working around both overhead and underground electrical assets.

The safety plea is particularly relevant at this time of year as more farmers will be using farm equipment that could potentially reach overhead power lines.

Regional Asset Manager, Glen Smith, said working carefully around overhead powerlines and underground assets is essential. He said being busy is never an excuse for not maintaining electrical safety.

“Farmers and truck drivers need to always ‘Look Up And Live’. Farmers have the added responsibility of ensuring that the drop off point for deliveries is located well clear of powerlines” said Mr Smith.

“Similarly if truck drivers have concerns they should refuse to make the deliveries.

“Everyone involved must realise that while trucks are getting bigger - powerlines are staying at the same height.” He said.

Victoria’s Director of Energy Safety Mr Ken Gardner said there was hardly a day that passed without an incident involving contact with an asset being reported to ESV, particularly with overhead powerlines.

The DVD has been produced in direct response to these continuing incidents across Victoria, so we urge anyone who’s working around these assets to contact us and obtain a free copy,” Mr Gardner said.

“Two drivers and a farmer died in 2006 when vehicles touched powerlines and only last year a man lost a leg when a scissor lift hit a powerline in north west Victoria,,” Mr Gardner said.

“We are aiming to distribute the DVD through as many avenues as possible across the state; in particular to organisations and individuals whose work brings them into close contact with overhead and underground assets.

Powercor and ESV have commenced an advertising campaign to ensure this safety message is reaching as many Victorians as possible.

(Continued)

MEDIA RELEASE

Powercor and ESV recommend the following safety advice to truck drivers, machinery operators, property owners and other workers:

- Identify all areas where powerlines cross properties;
- Obtain a copy of the 'No Go Zone' rules and regulations and study them closely – available at www.esv.vic.gov.au
- Identify all electrical hazards before starting work. If in any doubt contact the local electricity distributor;
- Monitor weather conditions. Powerlines can sag in extreme heat and sway in strong winds;
- Be aware that powerlines can be difficult to see at dawn and dusk;
- Never raise the tray of tipper trucks when underneath powerlines;
- Remember that no work should be carried out within the confines of powerlines, whether it's a last resort or not;
- Relocate bulk delivery storage sites to a safe area away from powerlines;
- Display 'Look Up And Live' stickers on any machinery or equipment that is raised overhead;
- Obtain a free copy of the '*Look Up, Look Down – And Live*' DVD from ESV

Copies of the free DVD titled 'Look Up, Look Down – And Live' can be ordered from ESV on 1800 800 156 or through the ESV website at www.esv.vic.gov.au

**Media enquiries: Powercor Australia's 24-hour Media service on 9683 4342 or
ESV communications enquiries to David Guthrie-Jones 9203-9744.**