



# ELECTRICAL HAZARD AWARENESS

## FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE WORKERS

Learning supplement

March 2014

### Key safety points to remember...

- › Always assess hazard and risk before starting work
- › Always assume powerlines are live
- › Contact your Communications Centre – stress the urgency!
- › Give your exact location. Request electricity personnel
- › Stay at least **8 metres** clear of power lines that are not confirmed as de-energised
- › Wait for the OK from the electricity authority before attempting to enter the area



### During fire operations....

- › Watch out for sagging and fallen power lines – remember fallen lines may recoil
- › Avoid working near high voltage lines in heavy fire conditions
- › Never stand or park beneath power lines
- › Never keep a direct stream of water onto power poles or lines



## ELECTRICAL HAZARD AWARENESS

### FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE WORKERS

#### New training DVD released

Work environments for NSW RFS members often expose them to electrical hazards. Lack of knowledge can make it very difficult for people to recognise potential hazards and what they can do to maintain awareness while working.

To address these concerns, Australian energy companies have produced an educational DVD specially designed for emergency services personnel in both rural and urban areas. The DVD runs for approximately 18 minutes and features all emergency services including NSW RFS. It is available for Districts in DVD format, but is also available for download via YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAdaSew7h4s>

#### DVD timings and content summary:

Time	Content
00:00	Generic risks and safety actions
04:25	Electrical hazards during fires (house and bush fires)
09:50	Fires in electrical substations
10:20	Electrical hazards during storms and floods
12:25	Electricity in rail corridors
14:25	Electricity switch yards and other electrical boxes

Suggestions for ways this resource could be used as part of training include:

- As a 'one off' session for professional development/revision of all members
- As the stimulus to start a training scenario that includes electricity as a scene hazard
- As an learning supplement for BF or VF training

A summary of the key points from the movie have been developed into a handout on the following page to assist trainers in getting these important message out to all members.

For further information regarding the DVD, please contact the WHS team on 8741 5544 or email [safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:safety@rfs.nsw.gov.au)