

ASP Safety Alert

ASP Compliance and Practices



Alert Number: SA05_18

12 March 2018

Ausgrid Network Fatal Risk 1.5 – Safe working distances

Definition of a network fatal risk

A network fatal risk is a situation or event that has the potential to result in a fatality with the electrical distribution industry if established controls and defences are ineffective.

1.5 Safe working distances

Maintain safe working distances from live exposed conductors.

Historically, the largest contributor in incidents each year results from breaches in minimum safe working distances. Common scenarios identified include:

- Cable strike during machine and hand excavation works
- Working within minimum safe working distances without appropriate authorisation and/or required PPE
- Insufficient work procedures when working on or near the Ausgrid network resulting in electric shock, arc flash, damage to network assets and injury to personnel.

A minimum safe working distance is the closest distance that you (or any part of your body, tools or other moveable equipment you are touching) can approach live exposed conductors

The distances are dependent on the nominal voltage and whether you are an ordinary person, instructed person or authorised person.

Action Required

ASPs to communicate to all authorised employees, supervisors and project managers the correct safe working distances for working on or near the Ausgrid network, as per Ausgrid's Electrical Safety Rules.

Ausgrid Project Officers