



Greetings All,

This week the bulletin has some more information that has come from the consultative committee meetings held here in Melbourne. Both the Mobile Crane and Tower Crane meetings provide a regular forum where matters affecting safety in the Victorian Crane Industry can be discussed in an open manner.

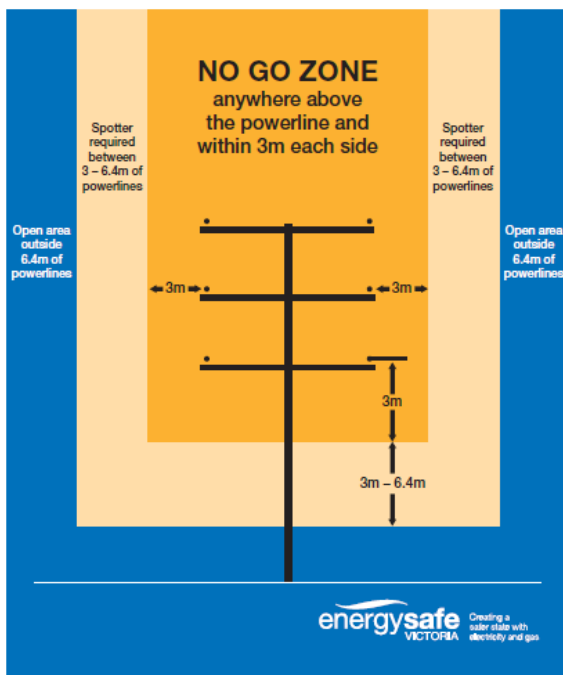
One of the stakeholders that has been a constant and welcomed attendee/contributor is the regulator that covers the electrical and gas sectors – Energy Safe Victoria (ESV).

Two recent incidents involving cranes were discussed last Friday during the standing agenda item covering No Go Zones.

The only difference as far as our industry is concerned is that the single feed lines are harder to see. Every single powerline has the potential to cause a fatality if a crane comes into contact, or is close enough to a electrical asset for arcing to occur. We all need to remember that electricity is the risk that we can't smell, we can't hear and certainly at times we have difficulty seeing.

So how do we get the message across to our workmates and our clients? The Look Up and Live campaign has been a successful tool in the past. Many of the readers of this bulletin have either been sent or been given the Look Up and Live stickers to put on their cranes, gear trucks, counter weight trucks or even lunch room fridges. It's a message that clearly makes a strong statement on what the real risks are. If powerlines are not identified before the boom comes out of the rest on a mobile crane, or before a tower crane is erected, there is a chance the crane may make contact.

OVERHEAD POWERLINES ON POLES



One of the VCA members that rents rigging gear out to greater industry has made a big difference by putting the Look Up and Live stickers on all of their spreader bars here in their Melbourne depot. Each and every time one of those items is hired out, the message is perhaps passed onto somebody that may have overlooked what risks may be located above them, or elsewhere on their site.

While the topic of cranes working near powerlines is one that these bulletins have addressed several times in the past, it has been a while since there have been any reported crane contacts. So when there are two reported incidents in a short period of time, it's a stern warning to industry that awareness of safety matters relating to powerlines need promoting.

The latest two incidents both involved cranes where the operator wasn't in a cabin, or at a dedicated control station. Remote Control for crane operations is a growing trend that has some positive benefits, but possibly has some increased risks associated with personnel trying to do two things at once. If the use of a remote control is part of the crane work you are doing, making sure the crane operator is fully able to concentrate on operating the crane is of the highest importance.

So what exactly constitutes a powerline? What are the differences between powerlines on poles and towers? And what about those single lines in the front yard of suburban houses or in other locations where you may be working?

Cheers for now and have a safe week.

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