



## THE REQUIREMENTS

When mobile plant will be **operating (tipping, raising or lowering)** 4 metres or less from overhead lines, under section 5.2.1 of NZECP 34 you must apply to MLL for written consent (Close Approach Authority) that allows the mobile plant to operate at a reduced distance.

In other circumstances, when mobile plant is **not operating** within 4 metres of a live overhead power line, you should identify the risks and apply appropriate controls to prevent harm and/or damage occurring.

Get to know NZECP 34. It could save your life.

## SAFETY AROUND LIVE OVERHEAD LINES

Working on a vineyard can put you in all kinds of situations - but close to electrical equipment and overhead conductors should never be one of them.

Prior to vintage 2018 Marlborough Lines (MLL) undertook a safety campaign to ensure that wine companies, harvest contractors, growers and vineyard owners were aware of the legal requirements for working around live overhead electric lines.

Since then there has been a great response from a wide variety of wine industry participants, and incidents involving mobile plant and overhead lines have thankfully been few in number over that period.

As the network owner, MLL is very mindful of the need to keep "safe working distances" fresh in everybody's minds. While the focus since 2018 has been on the higher risk period over vintage, the requirement extends throughout the year where other vineyard operations are undertaken in the vicinity of overhead lines.

Based on the great response and increased awareness MLL intends to continue with a focus on education, and to encourage a risk-based approach with respect to the operation of mobile plant as a normal part of your hazard assessment for all of your operations.

### ➔ What you need to know - tips to stay safe

Vineyards often have overhead power lines near or running through them, so there is significant risk - to you or your equipment - of accidentally touching the lines.

You don't even need to touch the line to be in danger - electricity can jump through the air to you and your equipment.

### ➔ Obeying the rules can help ensure all workers' safety

- ⚡ Every line must be treated as **live**. Always.
- ⚡ Don't locate dump/load sites under or near overhead power lines.
- ⚡ When moving tall machinery, choose the route where power lines are high enough for adequate clearance.
- ⚡ Always have any mobile plant device capable of being raised or lowered, in the lowered position prior to moving under lines.
- ⚡ Ensure operators are competent in the operation of their machines, thoroughly briefed and understand the dangers of working near overhead power lines.
- ⚡ Ensure a competent safety observer is able to maintain effective communication with the operator and alert them to any perceived hazard.
- ⚡ Before you harvest, prune, load or move equipment, **look up** and familiarise yourself with the location of any overhead power lines.
- ⚡ Locate a warning notice as near as practicable to the operator/driver's position stating "**WARNING KEEP CLEAR OF POWER LINES**". These stickers are available from MLL.

### ➔ Contact us

If you believe you may require a Close Approach Authority, need warning stickers, or have any questions, please phone Marlborough Lines on 03 577 7007 or email [info@mll.co.nz](mailto:info@mll.co.nz) to discuss.

We are happy to provide advice to help ensure everyone remains safe and well when working near overhead lines.