



# SAFETY ALERT

# Vehicle hits power pole

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Read: \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT HAPPENED

A farm worker was driving a ute in a paddock while taking their dog out for exercise and they drove up a slight hill, losing sight of the dog. Searching for the dog whilst driving meant they lost focus of where they were in the paddock and hit a power pole at approximately 15km/hr, causing the pole to break and fall onto the vehicle. The driver unfortunately then did the wrong thing and immediately exited the vehicle. They let the power company know so that power could be shut off and the area secured. Luckily, no one was injured.

## KEY LESSONS

- Make sure everyone on farm knows what to do if there's a downed wire, especially if you're in a vehicle. Have a look at the tips below and share this with your team.
- Always stay in the vehicle, unless escape is essential, until the power is definitely off, in case wires are live.
- Always pay attention when driving, even at a slow speed. What distractions can you and your team manage or limit when driving?
- Consider all vehicles and machinery – especially tractors with extra height implements such as post rammers.



### What to do if you hit a power pole:

- Always treat fallen power lines as live and extremely dangerous.
- Drivers and passengers: If safe to do so, reverse your vehicle at least 10 metres away (about the length of a bus), stay inside the vehicle and call 111. You are safe from electric shock so long as you stay in the vehicle.
- Do not exit the vehicle unless escape is essential (e.g. fire). In this case, jump clear with both feet together, and shuffle away, without lifting your feet until you are at least 10 metres away. Avoid your body or clothing contacting the vehicle and ground at the same time as this can result in electric shock.
- Bystanders: Stay at least 10 metres away and keep others away as well. Do not attempt to move or touch the line, or the vehicle.
- If you see a downed power line, **don't touch it – stay at least 10 metres away and call 111 immediately.**

Download, print and share this Safety Alert with your team.

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