

**BEFORE ANYTHING
RISKY. LOOK 360°**

360
AWARE



Working safely around electricity

Transporting oversize loads

Transporting oversize loads can be dangerous, especially if steps are not taken to ensure the load remains a safe distance from powerlines. The road transport industry has a high impact on Western Power assets including contact with poles and wires by vehicles the load they are carrying or associated plant.

It is important for all drivers to be aware of the risks, requirements and responsibilities when operating vehicles near the Western Power network.

It is very likely that you are working around electricity throughout your work day. This factsheet provides information about how to conduct your work to ensure you, your workmates and the community remain safe and the power remains on.

Your duty of care

Working around electricity, whether underground or overhead, is high risk work. All workers have a duty of care to ensure that no person, plant or materials enter the danger zone of any electrical network asset. The danger zone is set out in the [Occupational Safety and Health Regulations, 1996 - Reg 3.64](#). Some of these distances are varied for the use of vehicle movements on roads. The relevant network operator provides guidance on the movement of over dimension loads with regards to powerline clearances.

Are you transporting an oversize load?

If the height of your load exceeds 4.3m (4.6m for livestock and towed agricultural vehicles) you are transporting an oversize load. To ensure a journey without incident a number of measures are in place that must be followed before commencement of work.

How to proceed

Mainroads WA requires Western Power to authorise all load movements around the State of oversize loads. To effectively plan your safe journey you must;

1. Refer to Main Roads WA with your route to obtain a permit for travel
2. Apply to Western Power for authorisation of the oversized load movement, if the height of the load exceeds 4.3m
3. Western Power to assess the application
4. Western Power to issue an Oversize Load Movement Authorisation
5. Once the Authorisation has been issued no changes can be made. If changes are required a new authorisation must be issued, incurring a new permit processing fee.

If works are required, such as the raising of powerlines, Western Power will provide you with a quote. At times it may be determined that an escort is required to ensure that the vehicle is kept clear of powerlines at all times which will also incur a fee.

Unloading

Many incidents occur onsite when drivers don't consider the height of the load they are carrying or while offloading. To help avoid this occurring you should:

- Be mindful of the maximum height of your vehicle including load while elevated
- Never drive with elevated plant
- Where possible move load, tip tray or extend plant away from any overhead infrastructure
- Always be aware of overhead poles and wires in your work area
- Check for underground pillar boxes (green domes) in your work area.

Tips to avoid contacting poles, powerlines and pillar boxes:

- Check before reversing as underground pillar boxes can be difficult to see and easily run over by vehicles
- Check above before for overhead powerlines before raising tippers or vehicle loading cranes
- Ensure tippers and vehicle loading cranes are completely lowered before moving vehicle to avoid contact with overhead lines
- Determine the combined height of your vehicle including any earthmoving equipment being carried
- Be aware that the height of overhead lines may vary so visually check the work area before proceeding with your planned route
- If you are unsure or you think overhead lines may be too low to clear, stop, and call Western Power on **13 13 51**.

What to do in a vehicle in contact with electricity

1	Stay in the vehicle. Call 000 immediately.
2	If there's an immediate danger, like fire, and evacuation is absolutely necessary , access your escape route and check for fallen powerlines.
3	Exit the vehicle by jumping - make sure to land with both feet together.
4	When jumping, don't touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time .
5	Once you've landed with both feet together (be careful not to stumble or fall), jump or shuffle with your feet together away from the vehicle.
6	Move in this way until you are at least 8 metres away from the vehicle. Do not go back .

