

MEDIA RELEASE

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Electrocution death prompts farm safety warning

Farmers and rural workers are being reminded of the dangers of working with electrical installations following the electrocution death of an elderly man last week.

The 75-year-old man had been involved in fixing a dam pump on a rural property near Geelong when other workers found him unconscious and not breathing. He was unable to be revived.

This tragedy highlights the dangers posed by electrical equipment and the need to always use a qualified electrician to perform any type of electrical work.

Victoria's Director of Energy Safety, Paul Fearon, said farmers need to be particularly careful with how they manage electrical installations and equipment.

"Electrical equipment and installations should be properly maintained and checked regularly by licensed professionals. Poorly maintained equipment can kill."

"Never ignore minor electric shocks or tingles – in different circumstances they can be fatal. Call in qualified trades people to make sure things are safe."

"Never do your own wiring or electrical work, even if it's a simple job. Always use qualified trades people to carry out electrical or plumbing work because otherwise you are putting your own and other people's lives at risk," said Mr Fearon.

Rural workers need to be particularly aware of dangers posed by electrical installations and infrastructure such as overhead powerlines.

Energy Safe Victoria runs campaigns to warn farmers and workers of the risks and provides vital information about how to stay safe with a range of free stickers, signs and brochures. To find out more visit www.esv.vic.gov.au

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