

MEDIA RELEASE

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Second farm electrocution in two months prompts renewed safety warning

Energy Safe Victoria is once again warning farmers and rural workers about the dangers of electrical installations following the death of a farm worker in northern Victoria.

It is the second farm-related electrocution in two months.

The 21-year-old died when he went to attend to a pump in a drainage pit late on Wednesday night.

A pump was also responsible for the death of a 75-year-old man near Geelong in November.

Neil Fraser, ESV's Executive Manager Electrical Installations, Licensing and Equipment Safety, said electricity could kill in an instant and farmers should never try to do electrical work themselves.

"Water and electricity can be a fatal combination," he said. "If you need to clear or check a pump or float switch, turn off the pump before entering the water or touching the equipment.

"It is essential that you always use a qualified electrician to perform any type of electrical work. Farmers need to be very careful with how they manage and maintain electrical installations and equipment, particularly if they are experiencing minor electric shocks or tingles.

"Damaged or poorly maintained equipment can kill. A slight tingle or fuses blowing regularly are signs of a serious problem and they need to be investigated by a qualified tradesperson. Do not try to fix it yourself or get around the problem by adding extra fuse wire or bypassing circuit breakers."

Mr Fraser said while many farm workers were adept at a range of skills, electrical work was not something unlicensed people should ever try to do.

"Always use qualified tradespeople to carry out electrical and plumbing work otherwise you might be putting your life and potentially your family and colleagues at risk."

To find out more visit www.esv.vic.gov.au

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