

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# ESV warning about bogus electrician

Energy Safe Victoria is warning residents in Coburg and surrounding suburbs to be wary of a bogus tradesman who pretends to be an electrician and is carrying out dangerous electrical work.

Samson Sahinidis, of Coburg, was convicted and fined \$6000 in the Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court on 22 April for doing unlicensed electrical work and installing unsafe electrical equipment.

It was the third time he has been prosecuted by ESV in the past decade for pretending to be an electrician.

Sahinidis has never held an electrician's licence but his father is a properly licensed electrician.

Victoria's Director of Energy Safety, Paul Fearon, urged anyone needing electrical work to avoid contact with Samson Sahinidis as he was leaving installations in a dangerous condition.

"It is not only illegal to do electrical work if you're not licensed but ESV is concerned that someone could die or be seriously injured as a result of Mr Sahinidis' shoddy work," he said.

"Evidence tendered to the Broadmeadows Magistrates' Court showed that Sahinidis left live wires hanging from the ceiling of an extension where residents could have walked into them. "This family is very lucky that no-one was electrocuted."

Mr Fearon said ESV believed Sahinidis was getting work through word of mouth among the local community and he urged them not to use him for any electrical work.

"You should always use licenced electrical professionals for any electrical work that is needed around the home or business," he said. "It's not worth risking the safety of your family."

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### For further information:

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