

## Un-insulated boom lift contacted Low Voltage mains conductors

### A dangerous situation

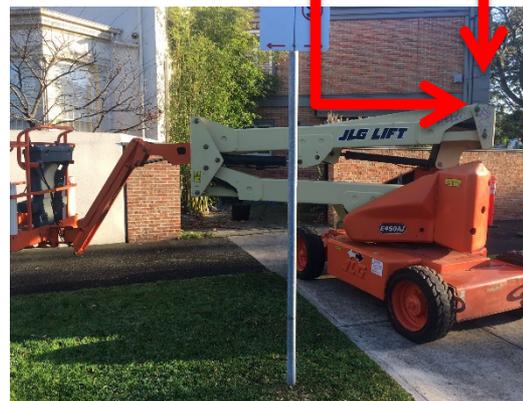
**ESV has issued this safety alert to request hire and rental organisations apply due diligence processes to ensure hirers are made aware of their electrical safety obligations when working near powerlines.**

On the morning of Friday 21 July 2017, an uninsulated Boom lift with a capacity greater than 11 metres made contact with and caused a live Low Voltage (LV) cable to fall to the ground. Damage was also sustained to the boom lift.

Initial investigations identified that:

- The boom lift was hired by a home owner to clear the gutters and down pipe on his property
- The operator was not licensed for the piece of high risk mobile plant
- The operator was not aware of the requirements of the No Go Zone rules when working near powerlines
- No electrical spotter was used to manage the distance between the boom and the powerlines
- Both the operator of the boom lift and the person assisting on the ground were lucky not to be injured or killed.

**ESV reminds hire and rental organisations to check that hirers have been provided appropriate information to allow safe them to plan and undertake the work safely.**



## Implement best practice

As best practice ESV requests that hire companies consider the use of a checklist that ensures the following key safety points are discussed and acknowledged by the hirer.

- Only licensed operators will be utilised when operating plant that requires a specific licence.
- Information has been provided to manage electrical powerline hazards in accordance with the No Go Zone rules.

## Ask questions of hirers

Develop a list of questions to ask prior to hire contracts being signed, such as:

1. Do you have a licence or a licensed person to operate this equipment? (for high risk plant items)
2. Are their powerlines near where the plant will be operated?
3. Are you aware of the No Go Zone rules?
4. Are you aware of the controls that need to be used when the working envelope of the mobile plant is closer than 6.4m to the overhead powerlines?

**Implementing these practices can benefit both hire companies and hirers to achieve safer outcomes.**

## Want to know more?

You can read more about the No Go Zone rules and working around powerlines on our website [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au) or contact our work practices people by calling 03 9203 9700 and asking for the Safety Outcomes Assurance team.

