

RECs to warn farmers of the need to install RCDs

Two men have been electrocuted after coming into contact with live parts on equipment while performing farm work in regional Victoria.

There was no RCD installed on the electrical circuits or connected to specific equipment at either location.

The Coroner found that the deaths could have been prevented had RCDs been installed protecting the power points.

Registered Electrical Contractors (RECs) should advise farm workers on the dangers of working with live electrical equipment and encourage the installation of RCDs on all circuits.

Electrical workers are also reminded of the dangers of working live.

When attending a fault or carrying out general maintenance works always ensure precautions are taken when working near live electrical equipment:

- Be aware of the risk associated with working on or near live electrical equipment
- Always approach the equipment safely - 'test before you touch'
- Before working on electrical equipment isolate supply - lock-out and tag-out (LOTO)
- The need to regularly check and maintain electrical installations and equipment
- The importance of having residual current devices (RCDs) installed and not to use damaged or faulty equipment.

Never work live or near live parts.

Install an RCD.

For more information, refer farmers and farm workers to ESV's [farm safety page](#), available on our website www.esv.vic.gov.au.