

MEDIA STATEMENT

30 June 2009

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) provides the following important safety advice to be observed during the strong wind events forecast for the next few days.

Electricity safety

- Because of the predicted extreme winds, power blackouts may occur across the State.
- When outdoors keep clear of powerlines which have fallen to the ground because of high winds and make sure others do the same. They could be "live" and dangerous.
- If electricity supplies have not been restored to homes for any reason, householders must not connect large generators or perform other electrical work around the home. Such practice is both illegal and dangerous - such work can only be carried out by licensed electricians.
- Small generators can be used only to power individual appliances such as hot water jugs. The leads between the generator and the appliance must be short and in good condition.
- Households still without power after electricity supplies have been restored to their neighbourhood should seek the help of their network provider. The problem could be a fault in the supply line to the property, or a fault within the property's electrical installation.
- If there are continuing power supply problems within properties, an electrician licensed by Energy Safe Victoria must be engaged to perform any electrical repair work. Contact a registered electrical contractor – contact details are available in local newspapers and Yellow Pages phone directories.
- When there is a power cut, make sure heating appliances are turned off (if they come back on and there is no one at the property, fires could eventuate.)
- Where properties have been significantly damaged by storms or strong winds, it is imperative that checks of wiring and other electrical installations are made before appliances are connected and turned on. Such checks must be carried out by a licensed electrician or licensed electrical inspector.

Further information: www.esv.vic.gov.au

In the case of electricity emergencies, household are advised to contact their network provider.

Victoria's distribution businesses can be contacted on the following numbers:

Powercor	132 412	(outer western suburbs and western Victoria)
CitiPower	131 280	(Melbourne CBD and inner suburbs)
Jemena	131 626	(northern and inner western suburbs)
United Energy	132 099	(inner eastern/south eastern suburbs, Mornington Peninsula)
SP AusNet	131799	(outer eastern and Eastern Victoria)

Further information: Ken Gardner (03) 9203 9700 or 0417 536 427