

5-minute talk for **Energy isolation**

Use this 5-minute talk in team discussions, like start of shift, morning, or pre-tower meetings, to help bring the Life Saving Rules to life. First, review the rule briefly with the team, then use the prompts to engage the group and start a discussion, or share a personal example of how you've experienced the rule.

Energy Isolation



Verify isolation and zero energy before work begins

- I have identified all energy sources
- I confirm that hazardous energy sources have been isolated, locked, and tagged
- I have checked there is zero energy and tested for residual or stored energy



Case Study

A contractor employee was electrocuted when a new power pole was raised prematurely and contacted an energised overhead electrical line, conducting current through the pole's ground wire to a worker on the ground. The new power pole was being installed between two existing poles that held the energised overhead lines.

Discussion prompts

What is stopping a similar incident (energy isolation) from happening at our site?

Facilitator background notes

- Overhead powerlines and underground utility lines need to be isolated before work nearby can start
- Energy isolation separates people from hazards such as electricity, pressure and energised equipment.
- Examples of energy sources: electrical, pneumatic, mechanical, thermal, hydraulic, chemical, gravity, rotational.
- Recognise these may not be visible or immediately obvious
- Energy isolation also provides protection from potential energy sources e.g. positioning valves to prevent tanks filling with materials due to gravity.
- Any stored energy (hydraulic or pneumatic power, for instance) should also be released before the work starts.