

**Greetings all. Today's topic talks about the Spotters Arm Band, a brilliant initiative from Rob Oldfield of EnergySafe Victoria.**



In Bulletin 238 I discussed the importance of a spotter when a crane is in operation, particularly around electrical assets. When I describe hazards in the crane industry I often talk about the amount of 'potential energy' involved and the potential damage that can be caused as a result. For example: The air in a large volume tyre compressed to 120 PSI; 60t of crane traveling at 80kph; a 100t nacelle suspended 100m high at a windfarm; or in these cases 22,000 volts of electricity a few meters from running through a metal crane and anyone standing in close proximity. Electricity is the mother of all hazards that can cause a disaster instantly and with no warning.

*In 2018 we saw 53 separate incidents where either high or low voltage assets were contacted. Every one of these was preventable.*



For the reasons above, electrical asset contact is a huge issue for all construction machines which is why Rob at EnergySafe Victoria has come up with the **Spotter Arm band**.

As I've said before, the Spotter must be a separate person to the dogger as he or she needs to be looking up at the boom when the dogger is concentrating on the load. Depending on the type of lift, it can be

virtually impossible to look at both load and boom tip let alone judge distances and proximities accurately. The arm band makes it instantly clear to all around that who is doing the spotting. It also helps prevent that person from being distracted by other tasks and conversations. If someone is wearing the arm band then it's a clear sign that they are engaged in their duty and they are not to be interrupted or approached unnecessarily. The visibility of the fluorescent arm band and seeing the spotters work will also increase the profile and recognition of the role while increasing awareness of spotters and their importance.

*Putting on the arm band will not automatically turn you into a qualified and competent Spotter!*

Spotters for overhead electrical lines should complete an endorsed spotter training course by a registered training provider and be competent in the design envelopes for the equipment/plant being used. A Spotter must also be familiar with the actual lift plan for operation including any traveling or crawling with the load.



The Spotters Arm Bands are available from <https://www.esv.vic.gov.au> along with other important electrical safety information.

*Stay Safe -CICA*