Low Voltage Rescue Guideline Handout

NSW WHS-aligned workplace handout (general guidance only)

Important: This handout is general guidance only and must be used together with your workplace procedures, site emergency arrangements, current legislation, and accredited training. Live electrical rescue should only be attempted by trained/authorised persons using appropriate rescue equipment and safe isolation procedures.

Visual Guide 1 – Low Voltage Rescue Response Flow

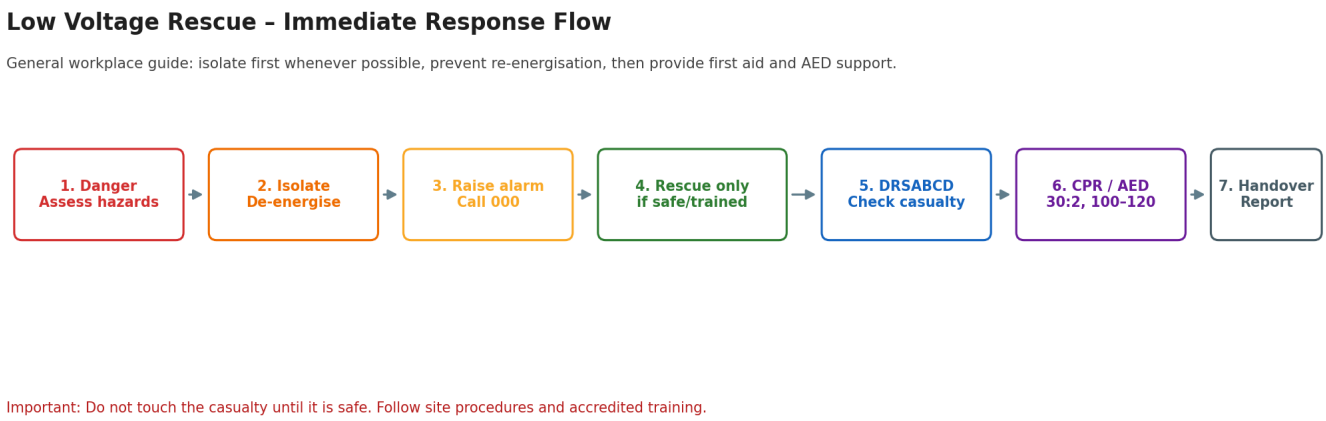

Figure 1. Immediate response flow for a low voltage electrical emergency.

Visual Guide 2 – DRSABCD Quick Reference

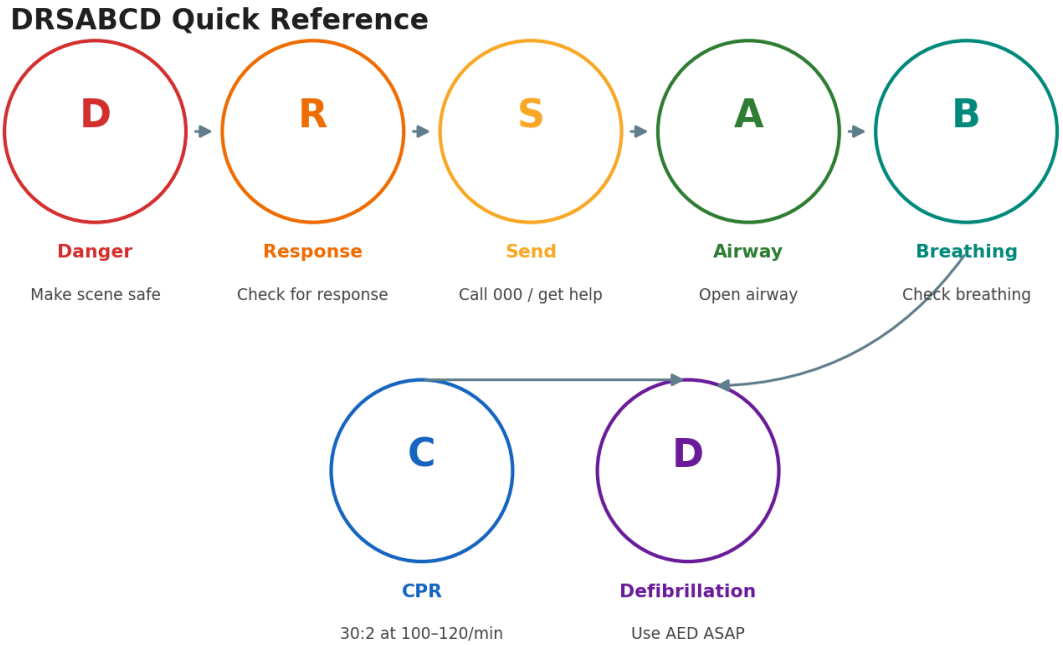

Figure 2. DRSABCD sequence for first aid, CPR and AED response.

- **Purpose**

- Provide a concise workplace reference for responding to a low voltage electrical emergency.
- Support safer decision-making until emergency services and/or qualified electrical personnel take over.

Key Principles

- Treat electricity as a serious hazard. Do not assume equipment is safe or de-energised.
- De-energise/isolate the electrical source first whenever possible and prevent inadvertent re-energisation.
- Do not touch the casualty directly until it is safe to do so.
- Use approved rescue equipment and follow site procedures.
- Call 000 and activate the site emergency response early.
- After rescue, use DRSABCD, commence CPR if required, and apply an AED as soon as available.

Immediate Response Steps

1. STOP AND ASSESS DANGER: Check for live conductors, exposed parts, arc flash/blast hazards, fire, smoke, confined spaces, and other risks to rescuers and bystanders.
2. ISOLATE / DE-ENERGISE: Operate the nearest safe isolation point if you can do so safely. Lock/tag out where required and stop others from re-energising the equipment.
3. RAISE THE ALARM: Call 000 and notify the site supervisor / emergency contact immediately.
4. RESCUE ONLY IF SAFE AND TRAINED: If the casualty cannot be de-energised immediately and your workplace procedure allows it, use approved insulated rescue equipment and keep yourself clear of live parts.
5. MOVE TO A SAFE AREA: Once contact with electricity is broken and the area is safe, move the casualty only as far as necessary for first aid and ongoing safety.
6. APPLY DRSABCD: Danger, Response, Send for help, Airway, Breathing, CPR, Defibrillation (AED).
7. CPR / AED: If unresponsive and not breathing normally, start CPR at 30 compressions to 2 breaths, about 100–120 compressions per minute, and attach an AED as soon as available.
8. HANDOVER / REPORT: Handover to paramedics, report the incident according to workplace procedures, and secure the area for investigation.

Do Not

- Do NOT touch the casualty while they may still be in contact with live electrical parts.
- Do NOT become a second casualty by rushing in without checking danger.
- Do NOT re-energise equipment until the area is declared safe and authorised to return to service.
- Do NOT rely on memory alone—follow your site emergency procedure and current training.

Workplace Readiness Checklist

- Workers performing or observing live low-voltage work should be trained and competent for their role.
- Ensure low voltage rescue equipment is accessible, inspected, and ready for use.
- Identify and label isolation points and emergency contacts.
- Provide and maintain first aid equipment and an AED where required by your workplace risk assessment.
- Consult workers, assess electrical risks, and review controls regularly.

Training and Currency

- Nationally recognised low voltage rescue training is commonly delivered as UETDRMP018 Perform rescue from a live low voltage panel.
- HLTAID009 Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation is a prerequisite for UETDRMP018 in nationally recognised training pathways.

- Resuscitation skills should be refreshed every 12 months in line with ARC / workplace first aid guidance and industry practice.

Source References

- SafeWork NSW – Electrical work (current web guidance)
- SafeWork NSW – Code of Practice: Managing Electrical Risks in the Workplace
- ANZCOR Guideline 8 – Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)
- St John Ambulance NSW – Low Voltage Rescue including CPR course information (training currency / prerequisite summary)

Useful links

https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/hazards-a-z/electrical-and-power/electrical-work

https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/50230/Managing-electrical-risks-in-the-workplace-COP.pdf

https://www.anzcor.org/home/basic-life-support/guideline-8-cardiopulmonary-resuscitation-cpr

https://stjohnnsw.com.au/low-voltage-rescue-including-cpr

Document note: Review this handout against your current rescue procedure, equipment list, and training records before issue.