

Overhead Electrical Lines

The term “electrocution” means being killed by electricity. Even low voltages can be extremely dangerous because the degree of injury depends not only on the amount of current, but also on the length of time the body is in contact with the circuit.

As part of routine pre-job planning and survey of the jobsite, the location of overhead power lines should always be noted, along with power line heights and distances from work areas on site diagrams. The local electric utility company should also be notified for assistance if work needs to be done near energized, overhead power lines. Power lines may be de-energized and grounded, or other protective measures like guarding or insulating the line could occur.

Points to remember

- Always assume all overhead lines are energized and dangerous.
- All workers must keep conductive objects at least 10 feet away from unguarded, energized lines.
- Consider ladder length and room for the ladder so you can safely raise and lower it.
- Eliminate the use of metal ladders near energized overhead power lines. Use non-conductive wood or fiberglass ladders instead.
- Always lower the ladder and carry it horizontally when moving it to avoid contacting overhead power lines. Have someone help carry and set up long and unwieldy ladders.
- Do not store materials or equipment below or near overhead power lines.
- Never touch or go near a person or equipment (such as a ladder) that is in contact with an overhead power line.

Sources:

Occupational Health & Safety Administration — <https://www.osha.gov/electrical/construction>

Date of Safety Talk _____

Company _____

Talk given by _____

Signature _____

Attending Employees:

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Notes:

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