

**TITLE: WORKING AROUND POWER LINES****Document Number: *****Issue Date:**

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1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish the procedures for conducting work in the vicinity of overhead or underground power lines.

2 Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to ensure that the proper notifications are made to the owners of the power lines if work will be conducted within 10 feet of a power line.

3 Policy Content

3.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

One of the most potentially hazardous electrical situations on **(Insert Company Name)** jobsites is accidental contact with overhead or underground wiring. Isolation or distance provides the best protection from contact with overhead wiring. The covering on some overhead lines is weatherproofing; it is not intended to provide insulated protection from contact. This plastic coating may become brittle, making it easy to crack and fall off.

Operators of equipment like:

- Backhoes
- Dump trucks
- Bucket trucks
- Concrete pumpers
- Booms and cranes

should be especially conscious of overhead wiring. The hazard of contact is also posed to workers on scaffolding or those handling or moving any type of long tools or equipment like sections of metal pipe.

3.2 DISTANCES TO OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Before you begin any work, **within 10 feet of an overhead electrical line carrying more than 750 volts**, you must contact the owner of the power lines to discuss proper procedures to be followed while working around the power lines.

The following distances must be maintained at all times while working around high tension wires:

MINIMUM DISTANCE	VOLTAGE
10 FEET	75 – 75 KV
15 FEET	750 – 250 KV
20 FEET	2500 – 550 KV

3.3 UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL WIRES

Prior to digging or excavating an area, **CALL DIGSAFE** to determine the location of any underground wires. If there are any underground wires, the location must be marked so as not to accidentally hit them.

3.4 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IS YOUR EQUIPMENT CONTACTS POWER LINES

When electricity makes contact with the ground, the earth becomes energized for a good distance around the contact. The strength of the electrical charge decreases from the point of contact. This is why it is **vital not to separate your feet** since there may be a difference in the electrical charge under each foot. This difference could create an electrical path through your body.

If you make contact with a high voltage line while operating heavy equipment take the following precautions:

- **Stay on the equipment**, if possible, until help arrives
- **Avoid touching any metal parts**, and
- **Try to break the contact** by moving the machine.

If it is absolutely necessary to exit the machine, jump as far out as possible and make sure you do not fall back against the machine. Land with both feet together and hop or shuffle your feet a few inches at a time making sure to never break contact with the ground or cause separation between your feet. Don't walk or run. Get as far away as possible.

4 References

None

5 Appendices

None