



Weekly Safety Meetings

Safety Training for the Construction Industry

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Premium Membership

COMPANY NAME: _____

Library 29-8

Overhead Power Lines—Shocking!

Construction workers who work under or near overhead power lines must know the dangers involved and the safety precautions to follow to reduce the risk of falls, burns, and fatal electric shock. Overhead power lines can carry hundreds of thousands of volts, but there are safe work practices you can follow to stay out of danger.

Plan Ahead: Before you begin to work, survey the job site carefully. Look for overhead power lines. Always assume overhead lines are energized, bare, and dangerous, no matter what they may look like. Maintain a safe distance of at least ten feet. If overhead power lines are present where you will be working, contact the utility company. They can either shut off the lines while you work or they can install insulating covers over them. All of this will take time, so plan ahead to avoid delays.

Contact With Power Lines: Never touch a power line. Touching a power line with any part of your body or with any object such as a ladder, tree trimmer, pole, or rope can result in serious injury or death. Remember that electricity can flow through conductive materials including metal, water, and you. Use ladders made of non-conductive materials like wood or fiberglass when working near power lines. When carrying long or tall items, such as bull floats or tree saws; hold them parallel to the ground to avoid contact. Keep building materials such as conduit, pipe, lumber, and siding away from power lines.

Machinery and Equipment: Keep all vehicles and heavy machinery such as cranes, bucket and dump trucks, backhoes, concrete pumps, and front-end loaders away from power lines. A spotter should be designated to observe the clearance between power lines and heavy equipment used near power lines. The spotter must maintain a minimum safe distance from the equipment in case it comes in contact with energized power lines.

When operating a crane near energized lines up to 50,000 volts, keep the minimum safe distance of 10 feet. Add half an inch of distance between the lines and any part of the crane for every 1,000 volts over 50,000.

In Case of Contact: If equipment makes contact with a power line, the operator should remain in the cab until the lines have been de-energized. Call 911 to get emergency personnel on the way and get the line de-energized. Avoid touching anything metal. If possible, the operator should try to move the equipment away from the wire. Everyone should keep away from the equipment, its load, and tag lines since they may all be energized.

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SAFETY REMINDER
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Underground power lines can also pose serious electrical hazards. Always contact the local utility company for assistance before you dig!

NOTES:

SPECIAL TOPICS /EMPLOYEE SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS/NOTES:

S.A.F.E. CARDS® PLANNED FOR THIS WEEK:

REVIEWED MSDS # _____ SUBJECT: _____

MEETING DOCUMENTATION:

JOB NAME: _____

MEETING DATE: _____

SUPERVISOR: _____

ATTENDEES: _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.