
23.0 WORKING NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Using proper safe practices/procedures near power lines is absolutely necessary. Work with your supervisor and co-workers to ensure a proper safety attitude at your workplace.

Injuries and deaths near power lines are all too common. Near misses are frequent. Avoid contact with power lines requires common sense, a strong awareness of safety factors, and good decision making ability.

Please review and adhere to the following practice/procedures when planning and performing work near overhead power lines.

1. Before work begins, conduct a hazard assessment and examine the work area to recognize hazards so that the "safe limits of approach" distance to overhead power can be maintained.
 2. Also, request assistance from the electrical utility if the work must be performed at a distance that is less than those specified. In this situation, have the electrical utility disconnect or relocate the line if needed. If this isn't practical or feasible to do so, carry out the following:
 - Keep an eye out overhead at all times; take time to examine the hazard.
 - Before operating equipment, make a safety plan that prevents contact.
 - Take extra care and precautions.
 - Check the height of your equipment or load.
 - Plan your moves
 - Are there power lines to pass under or avoid?
 - Look out for uneven ground that may cause your vehicle to weave, bob, or bounce.
 - Think about wind and temperature - they may affect the power line's height.
 - Never ride or climb on equipment or a load when near a power line.
- ◆ Work around power lines to be done only during daylight hours.
 - ◆ Don't ground your equipment around a power line.

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- ◆ Do not allow equipment or objects to approach the overhead power line closer than the safe limit of approach specified.
- ◆ If work is being carried out near the "safe limit of approach", use a trained signaler to act as an observer to ensure that the required distance is maintained.
(Communication by radio or air horn.)
- ◆ Do not place materials under or adjacent to the overhead power line if it reduces the clearance above ground required by O.H. & S. regulations. Contact the electrical utility for assistance to determine the required clearance between the power line and the ground.
- ◆ Do not allow excavations to reduce the support for power poles. Contact the electrical utility to determine support required. Request line locaters in case of grounding grids buried at the base of power poles.
- ◆ Keep a safe working distance between your equipment and power lines follow O.H. & S. regulations which require you to stay clear of power lines. Don't go too close with people or equipment. SEE ATCO ELECTRIC MIN. REQ.

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