

Working Safely Near Power Lines

Power companies get very concerned when construction and maintenance equipment get close to or touches a power line.

If you are working on a hoisting/rigging, excavating, grading or construction project within an electrical line right-of-way, keep in mind the risks associated with overhead high-voltage power lines. Non-electrical utility crane operators must contact the local electrical distribution company to verify voltage.



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TABLE A—MINIMUM CLEARANCE DISTANCES

Voltage (nominal, kV, alternating current)	Minimum clearance distance (feet)
up to 50	10
over 50 to 200	15
over 200 to 350	20
over 350 to 500	25
over 500 to 750	35
over 750 to 1,000	45
over 1,000	(as established by the utility owner/operator or registered professional engineer who is a qualified person with respect to electrical power transmission and distribution).

Note: The value that follows “to” is up to and includes that value. For example, over 50 to 200 means up to and including 200kV.

How to Avoid Electrocutation:

- Locate all power supplies, besides this being the state, it’s smart.
- Be aware of overhead power lines and equipment, and maintain safe working distances from energized parts.
- Have the power company inform you of the voltage and arc distances.
- Shut off or insulate the power line(s) if possible.
- Never allow a piece of equipment to break the safety zone (the distance required to avoid electric arc).
- Use extreme care with ladders and scaffolding.
- Establish a clearance boundary around power lines before work begins.

SAFETY TALK

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- Pay attention to line clearance distances. The height above the ground can vary, based on power load.
- Use a spotter when operating heavy equipment.
- Call the local electrical distribution company if unsure about line voltage rating and safe working distance from power lines equipment.
- Comply with all OSHA requirements and applicable state and federal regulations.

General Rules to Remember:

- Designate a competent lead signal person.
- Communicate clearly with all members of the work crew.
- Have all crew members watch the operation.
- Watch for non-alert crew members.

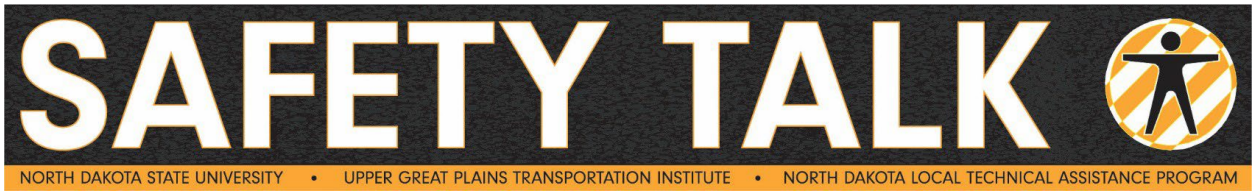
Remember, whenever you are near a power line, be sure to minimize the risk by de-energizing or insulating the power source. Only then proceed with caution. At all times, try to avoid entering an arc zone. It is far better to be safe than sorry.



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Safety Talk Sign-in Sheet Topic Working Safely Near Power Lines

Agency: _____

Crew: _____

Supervisor/Talk Leader: _____

Date: _____

Print Name

Signature

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